

# HOW THE SOVIET PEOPLE FIGHT

*By*  
*Soviet Writers*



Fighting gallantly, attacking determinedly, grandsons  
of Suvarov, children of Chapayev.

## *A Selection Of Reports*

*(Covering the period from December 1941  
to April 1942)*



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## ***CONTENTS.***

	PAGE.
1. 1942—PERSPECTIVE ... ..	1
2. SOVIET WINTER OFFENSIVE ... ..	13
3. RED SOLDIERS AND GUERILLAS ... ..	27
4. HOW SOVIET WORKERS FIGHT ... ..	39
5. HOW SOVIET PEASANTS FIGHT ... ..	58
6. HOW SOVIET PRESS FIGHTS ... ..	64
7. SOVIET SCIENCE AND WAR ... ..	69
8. SOVIET MUSIC AND WAR ... ..	79
9. SOVIET THEATRE AND CINEMA IN WAR ... ..	87
10. SOVIET LITERATURE AND EDUCATION IN WAR-TIME	96

# Preface

In the following symposium of articles by Soviet writers we give our readers, in the form of literary snapshots, an insight into the vast struggle at the front and in the rear which the peoples of the Soviet Union are carrying on in their great patriotic war against the German Fascist invaders.

The articles printed here roughly cover the period from January to May 1942.

The field covered in this selection is of ambitious dimensions and since there has been no effort on our part at completeness in presentation the picture will necessarily appear inadequate viewed as a whole. Nevertheless the reader will find that these reports, by men and women who are active participants in their country's efforts dealing with the Red Army in action, with Soviet industry, agriculture, science, the press, music and literature, etc., create a certain measure of intimacy, denied to most of our countrymen in the ordinary course, with life in the Soviet Union under conditions of war. Each article hence is characteristic of the contribution being made by every type of Soviet citizen in various spheres of national activity: be he a Red General or a Red Army man or a guerilla, a world-renowned scientist or musician or an ordinary worker in industry or on collective farm; in the occupied regions of Belo-Russia or the Ukraine, in Moscow or Leningrad, in Kazakhstan or in any other part of the Soviet Union. The red thread which runs throughout is the great vigour, patriotic enthusiasm, labour heroism, brotherhood, unity of will and purpose, and action, of the entire Soviet people in the cause of the great patriotic war against German Fascism.

Since every nation and every country, including especially our own, is threatened by the same world menace we have a living, triumphant example in the way the peoples of the Soviet Union act and fight materially and spiritually in the struggle for victory over Fascism and to win freedom—the freedom of all those oppressed by Hitlerism and of those open to the menace of this scourge.

The reader will naturally look at the accounts on the military situation contained in this booklet in the context prior to the July offensive of the Germans. What has happened since the operations which the Germans began in July this year was not quite unforeseen. In the first stage of the war (June–December 1941) the Germans advanced. Roughly from December

onwards until the Spring (the Soviet winter offensive, reported here) they were stopped and hurled back from the gates of Leningrad and Moscow and Rostov was retaken. The German army in both these phases suffered a severe blood-letting and indeed was so battered that on the first anniversary of the outbreak of the Soviet-German war, Mikhail Kalinin, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U. S. S. R., was able to point out :

“ As for the development of military operations, one can say with certainty, that the German Army is incapable of carrying out a general offensive along the entire front. It is not what it was at the beginning of the war. It has been considerably weakened physically. It is clear that on such an extensive front as the Soviet-German battlefield, offensive operations by German troops *in individual sectors* (emphasis mine) are still possible, but I think they will be of limited character and will cost the Germans a high price. ”

The German offensive since July in the South occurred after Kalinin's article. Indeed, the Germans were unable to have a general offensive : on the contrary, General Zhukov launched a big Soviet attack in the Centre. The Germans are staking everything on the Southern offensive hence the ferocity and weight of their attack before which the Red Army has had to give way temporarily. The threat to Soviet positions is serious but it cannot decide the war on the Soviet-German front. The third and decisive round is yet to come.

The accounts of the Soviet offensive given here are valuable from the point of view of the interest they create in the Red Army in action, its tactics, its unique strength, its tremendous morale, having been written by men who are actively engaged on the field of battle.

In a second booklet we hope to give further reports from the Soviet Union.

*Sharaf Athar Ali*

Bombay  
16th September 1942.



***M. Kalinin, Chairman of the Presidium  
of the Supreme Soviet of the U. S. S. R.***

# 1942 -- Perspective

**A summing up of the experiences of the first six months of war by Kalinin and Scherbakov. The Spirit of Lenin. Red Army performs a Miracle.**



## **The New Year**

**The speech by M. Kalinin, Chairman of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U. S. S. R., broadcast by Moscow radio at midnight, December 31, 1941:**

"DEAR comrades, citizens of the Soviet Union, men and women workers, collective farmers, intellectuals, men, commanders and political instructors of the Red Army and Red Navy, men and women guerillas, inhabitants of the Soviet districts temporarily occupied by the German Fascist invaders !

"Permit me to congratulate you on the New Year, and, on the occasion of the commencement of the New Year, permit me to present a brief summary of the war.

"FOR MORE THAN SIX MONTHS OUR COUNTRY HAS BEEN WAGING THE DIFFICULT AND BLOODY WAR AGAINST THE GERMAN FASCIST INVADERS, THE GERMAN IMPERIALISTS. OUR COUNTRY AND WITH HER THE WHOLE OF THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN UNDERGOING A DIFFICULT TIME. THE RED ARMY HAS FOUGHT HEROICALLY. BUT THE ENEMY HAD THE INITIATIVE. SEEKING OUT WEAK SPOTS THE ENEMY ADVANCED, OCCUPYING OUR CITIES AND VILLAGES. LIKE CRIMINALS THEY PLUNDERED THE PEACEFUL, NON-COMBATANT POPULATION.

"We never for a moment had a single doubt that the enemy would be defeated, but the pride of the people was roused, our self-esteem was wounded by the fact that the German robbers were rampaging throughout our land, mocking our population, torturing the aged and women and children.

"The Soviet people have suffered so much during these days of serious and difficult trials. They have sent to the front hundreds of thousands of their best sons, to defend with their lives their native, sacred land and exterminate the enemy.

"Comrades, Red soldiers, commanders, political instructors ! Your skill and heroism, which has aroused the admiration of the whole of the honest world, has stopped the enemy on the vital front; he has been defeated, and thoroughly defeated.

“The surprise nature of the attack gave the German Army considerable advantages. You know well that in order to mobilise and build strength considerable time is required. To mobilise and build an army to fighting strength with the sword of the enemy hanging over us requires considerable determination and great bravery on the part of the men, and especially, I would say, skilled direction.

“The German ruling clique has miscalculated. They thought that the surprise attack would smash the will of the Soviet people, and that the struggle of the invaders would overthrow the Red Army, and they would seize our industry, i. e., destroy the Soviet Union, enslave our freedom-loving and proud peoples. The Soviet people stubbornly defended every inch of their native land. In constant battles they exhausted the enemy, exterminating his man-power and destroying his equipment.

“The New Year opens with considerable part of the front the enemy is retreating, pressed hard by the units of the Red Army. In many cases he is fleeing in disorder, leaving in our hands tanks, guns, machine guns and other military equipment, the amount of which is increasing steadily.

“A difficult path has been traversed by our Red soldiers and sailors, commanders and political instructors. But there are still great difficulties ahead of us. The offensive in frosts and deep snows demands from you tremendous efforts and strength of will. But one thing should encourage you—that by the strength of your arms the enemy has been compelled to roll back; that we are fighting the enemy on equal terms; that the initiative has been wrested from the enemy.

“IN THIS STRUGGLE, IN WHICH IS BEING DECIDED THE FATE, PRESENT AND FUTURE, OF OUR MOTHERLAND, OF OUR SOVIET STATE, IN WHICH IS BEING DECIDED THE FATE OF THE WHOLE OF EUROPE—IT IS REMARKABLE THAT OUR RED ARMY, SINGLE-HANDED, IN THIS DIFFICULT, BLOODY WAR AGAINST THE GERMAN FASCIST ARMY, HAS CHANGED THE SITUATION.

“The Red Army, twenty days ago on several sectors of the front went over from active defence to the offensive against the enemy troops.

“During this period the Red Army has liberated from the German Fascist invaders: Rostov-on-Don, Tikhvin, Yelets, Kerch, Feodosia, Kaluga and other towns.

“I think that in the next few days a number of other Soviet cities occupied by the Germans will be liberated once and for all from the German yoke.

“Our forces in the struggle against the enemy are growing. We are confident of victory. We know that not a single person in the Soviet Union will be content as long as a single Hitlerite remains on the sacred Soviet

soil, until Hitlerism is burnt out as with a red-hot iron. The first successes of the Soviet troops on all the fronts form the guarantee of our victory, of our triumph in the struggle against Hitler's armies. The guarantee of this is the heroic work of all our country for the front, for victory. The guarantee of this is the fact that the leader of our armed forces, Comrade Stalin, directs with assurance our Red Army for the destruction of the brazen enemy, for the liberation of all the peoples enslaved by German Fascism.

"Dear Comrades, men and women citizens of the Soviet Union! Men of the forces, commanders, political instructors! On behalf of the Soviet Government and the Central Committee of our Leninist Party, I congratulate you on the beginning of the New Year, and I wish all the Soviet people in the year 1942, the complete destruction, without any survivals, of our mortal enemies, the Fascist invaders. A Happy New Year Comrades!"

## **How The Attack On Moscow Was Defeated**

**Speech delivered by A. Scherbakov  
On January 21st, 1942**

This is not the first time that the Soviet people have had to deal with the German militarists. In 1918, under the leadership of Lenin, our country ultimately hurled back the onslaught of the German imperialists who, to use Stalin's expression, were carrying on their bayonets for the workers and peasants of our land an "ignominious yoke, which was not one whit better than the old Tatar Yoke." That time the insatiable, gluttoned imperialist beast broke its neck.

In speaking of the German imperialism of those days, Lenin said: "FIRST, IT DISTENDED ITSELF INCREDIBLY OVER THREE-FOURTHS OF EUROPE, GORGING ITSELF FAT, AND THEN IMMEDIATELY BURST, LEAVING BEHIND A MOST TERRIBLE STENCH." (Lenin, Collected Works, Vol. xxiii.)

Such was the end of the German imperialists who tried in 1918 to place the working people of our country in fetters of slavery. There is no doubt that the present war will have the same result.

OUR COUNTRY DID NOT WANT WAR, THE SOVIET PEOPLE WERE BUSY WITH PEACEFUL, CONSTRUCTIVE LABOR. IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT STEADILY

PURSUED A POLICY OF PEACE, TIRELESSLY EXPOSING THE AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS OF THE FASCIST IMPERIALISTS. IT WAS BY ITS PEACE POLICY THAT THE SOVIET UNION WON THE SYMPATHIES AND SUPPORT OF MILLIONS OF HONEST PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD.

The perfidious attack of the German invaders on our country in June of last year forced the Soviet people to take up arms. THE WAR PROVED A TURNING POINT IN THE LIFE OF OUR COUNTRY. THE ERA OF PEACEFUL CONSTRUCTION CAME TO AN END AND A NEW ERA WAS USHERED IN, AN ERA OF WAR OF LIBERATION AGAINST THE GERMAN INVADERS, THE MOST PREDATORY, MOST AGGRESSIVE, MOST PIRATICAL OF ALL IMPERIALISTS IN THE WORLD.

Seven months have passed since the beginning of the war.

There have been grievous days during that time for our Red Army and our whole country. Our men and commanders fought like heroes, but the Hitlerites, who were aided by their superiority of forces and were availing themselves of the advantages accruing from their unexpected and perfidious attack on the U.S.S.R.; captured a considerable part of our territory; our army suffered temporary reverses and was compelled to retreat.

We know that the German fascist aggressors had planned to "settle" the Soviet Union in the space of a month and a half or two. This plan went to smash. Then there emerged another—"to finish off" the Soviet Union before winter set in. We have in our possession statements—and plenty of them, at that—made by the Hitlerite ringleaders themselves, confirming that this was just how they had mapped out the course of the war.

Early in October the German command launched—according to the bragging announcement of Hitler—its last, its "decisive offensive" against the Soviet troops, designed by the Hitlerites to settle the fate of Moscow, and, thereby the outcome of the present war. Here is what was said on this score in Hitler's official speeches and in the orders to the German fascist army.

In an order to the German soldiers of the Eastern front, dated October, 2, 1941, Hitler said in speaking of the plans for capturing Moscow, Leningrad and the oil fields of the Caucasus:

"Within a few weeks the three most essential industrial areas will be fully in our hands...The conditions have at last been created for a final tremendous blow, which must lead to the annihilation of the enemy even before the advent of winter. All preparations, so far as this is attainable by human effort, are already completed. This time preparations have been made to plan, step by step, with a view to reducing the enemy to a position in which we shall be able to deal him the deathblow. Today the final, great, decisive battle of the year is to begin.

These self-conceited ravings of the madman Hitler were repeated later to the German people and to the whole world in a speech delivered the day following.

Forty-eight hours ago new operations, of gigantic scope, commenced. They will be instrumental in annihilating the enemy in the East...The enemy has been routed and will never regain his strength."

As may be seen from the afore-mentioned documents, Hitler and his criminal gang were cherishing the hope of routing the Soviet armies near Moscow, of capturing and plundering our capital and securing winter-quarters in Moscow for their plundering army. We may also see from these documents that the Hitlerite gang was endeavoring by endless false promises to stay the demoralization of their army which had already set in, promising the deceived soldier masses in return for participation in this offensive—purporting to be the last—leave to go home, and then, after the capture of Moscow—peace.

But as the old proverb says: Don't count your chickens before they're hatched." (Laughter.) The offensive promised by Hitler was launched but fell through. The Russian roads, fields and forests were strewn with the corpses of German soldiers. Only one result was achieved by Hitler by his October offensive against Moscow, and that was the further physical and moral exhaustion of his army. The vermin-ridden, famished, tattered Hitlerite hordes were held up on the distant approaches to Moscow, while the population of Germany, on receiving these tidings from the front, was afforded yet another opportunity of convincing itself that Hitler, the arch-liar and braggart, had again gulled the soldiers and the people of Germany.

In the middle of November, Hitler announced one more "last" offensive on Moscow. In an order to the soldiers of the Eastern Front relative to this operation, Hitler stated:

"Taking into account the importance of circumstances we are about to face, particularly the winter and the poor equipment of the army, I hereby order that, whatever the cost, the shortest possible shift be made of the capital city of Moscow." But this time Hitler was not boasting over the radio before the Germans and the whole world. On the contrary, he was concealing from the German people that the October offensive had failed and that he was now compelled to launch a new one. In this November order the old insolence and self-assurance were distinctly lacking. They were replaced by shrill, hysterical vociferation.

On November 16, 1941, the German forces, massing dozens of infantry, motorized infantry and tank divisions for a supreme effort, launched a second general offensive, which aimed by means of an enveloping movement and a simultaneous deeply penetrating outflanking operation to come out in our rear, to encircle and capture Moscow.

Well, it cannot be gainsaid that Moscow, and together with Moscow the whole country, went through difficult days. On the one flank the enemy had captured Yakhroma, on the other he was approaching Kashira. BUT EVEN IN THOSE CRITICAL DAYS OUR PEOPLE, OUR ARMY, NEVER FOR ONE MOMENT DOUBTED THAT THE ENEMY WOULD BE BROUGHT TO A HALT—FLUNG BACK AND ROUTED. (STORMY APPLAUSE.) THEY HAD NO DOUBTS, COMRADES, BECAUSE THEY HAD FIRM CONFIDENCE IN THEIR STRENGTH AND IN THE FORCE OF THE GENIUS OF OUR LEADER AND GENERAL, COMRADE STALIN.

(STORMY APPLAUSE, PASSING INTO OVATION. ALL RISE.)

And so it turned out. In the early days of December, after having worn down the enemy in the previous fighting our troops assumed the counter-offensive against the German fascist aggressors; and inflicted several crushing blows. As a result of the counter-offensive launched by our armies, the enemy's shock troops, grouped on our flanks, were routed, and the enemy began to beat a hasty retreat abandoning arms and equipment and suffering tremendous casualties. Life was laughing them to scorn, these Hitlerite fools. The German plan of encircling and capturing Moscow was blown to smithereens. The German army paid an enormous price for the insane November attempt to "make the shortest possible shrift of the capital city of Moscow."

During the counter-offensive of our troops—from December 6 to January 15, i. e., in the course of a month and ten days, the German army on the Soviet front lost in killed alone approximately 300,000 soldiers and officers (APPLAUSE.)

During that period the Soviet troops captured 4,801 guns, 3,071 trench mortars, about 8,000 machine-guns and 15,000 automatics, over 90,000 rifles, 2,766 tanks (APPLAUSE); over 300 armored cars, 33,640 trucks, 102 radio installations, over 200,000 mines about 6,000 motoreycles, and many thousands of bicycles, wagons, horses and other war supplies. During the same period over 1,100 German airplanes were destroyed.

THESE FIGURES CLEARLY SHOW HOW SERIOUS THE DEFEAT SUFFERED BY THE HITLERITE ROBBER ARMIES NEAR MOSCOW WAS, AND WHAT HEAVY BLOWS THE RED ARMY DEALT THEM IN OTHER SECTORS OF THE SOVIET-GERMAN FRONT.

With a view to masking its reverses, the German command proceeded to spread falsehood upon falsehood, to disseminate one absurd statement after another.

On December 10, the German command announced that "continuation of war operations would henceforth be governed by the fact that the Russian

winter has set in. As the weather does not admit of large-scale offensive operations, the German command is abstaining from same."

That was a good one! They had just been saying that they "regard Moscow as their main objective, even in the event of Stalin's attempting to shift the centre of the war operations elsewhere"—and then, all of a sudden, at the very moment when, in the words of German command, the "offensive on the Bolshevik capital had advanced so far that you might distinguish through a pair of good field-glasses the inner part of the city of Moscow," they suddenly gave up the idea of offensive operations. Its the winter, you see, that's to blame. This sleight of hand of the Hitlerites, who had been lying themselves blue in the face, was exposed in our papers and in the foreign press. Nothing remained intact of their entire tissue of lies. It was proved beyond contradiction that the German plan of seizing Moscow had been frustrated, not by the frosts, as these had not yet set in at that time, but by the RED ARMY.

And so the German command stated that it was abstaining from offensive operations. Well and good. But what about it when not only there are no offensive operations, but when you have to retreat, abandoning one town after another? At this juncture a new version appeared, as incongruous as the first—the version of straightening out the front and of withdrawing to a mythical winter defence line and winter-quarters. First it was the quarters in Rostov and Tikhvin that did not suit the tastes of the Germans, and then it was the Moscow quarters that failed to please. Nor do they appear to have been satisfied with their quarters at Kalinin, Yalets, Solnechnogorsk, Volokolamsk, Narofominsk, Kaluga, Mozhaik and a good many other places ( LAUGHTER, APPLAUSE ); so much so, in fact, that they, the Germans, preferred giving up their ghosts in the wide and open fields to availing themselves of these quarters. One would think that in point of billets the UNINVITED Hitlerite lodgers were most finicky, whereas in reality their fastidiousness is quite easily explained—the Red Army had given it to the uninvited lodgers in the neck, was driving them off and still continues to drive them off. ( APPLAUSE. )

The same was the case with the bunkum about straightening out the front. When did anyone ever hear of an army straightening out its front and losing in the process hundreds of thousands in killed, losing thousands of tanks and guns, tens of thousands of trucks, rifles, machine-guns, shells, losing loaded trains, etc.? All their lies have now been nailed and they have reached the end of their tether, these fascist swindlers hailing from the gambling house of Hitler & Co.

One thing, and only one, is correct in all this silly twaddle of the Hitlerites—the German fascist lice-infested soldiers would ever so much like to have a respite, and have it right now. The Hitlerites need a respite very

badly, indeed; they need it to refurbish their battered troops and gird up their loins for new adventures.

It is our task, however, to baulk these plans of the German aggressor—to give the enemy no rest, to annihilate his man-power and demolish his equipment. There is no doubt that the men, commanders and political instructors of the Red Army will not spare any effort to come through the test with flying colors.

# **Lenin Inspiration In Great Patriotic War Of Soviet People**

**From Moscow News of January 21st, 1942**

In these times of grave trial when the peoples of the U.S.S.R. are engaged in mortal combat with predatory Hitlerite imperialism, the name of Lenin inspires them and gives them courage to perform immortal exploits to the glory of their country and in the best interests of mankind.

With the name of Lenin, the 72nd anniversary of whose birth is now being observed, is associated the long struggle and the victories of the Soviet peoples on the fronts of war, economics, diplomacy and culture. With the name of Lenin is associated the foundation and development of the Soviet State, the transformation of a backward, undeveloped country into an advanced mighty industrial power.

Lenin was head of the Soviet Republics at the most critical period of its existence when it ran foul of German imperialism.

Having trampled its peace treaty with Soviet Russia, Germany seized the Ukraine, Belorussia and other districts and commenced to oppress and rob the people, to destroy the towns and villages and execute peaceful citizens by the thousands. "The German robbers have broken all records by the brutality of their military repressions," wrote Lenin at that time.

At the first reports of the German advance, Lenin issued concrete instructions showing how they could be checked. All the forces and resources of the country were mobilized to rebuff the aggressor. The entire economic, political and cultural life of the land was subordinated to the needs of the war. Lenin instructed local organs of government to defend every position to the last drop of blood. When retreating, the railwaymen were to destroy



the lines, blow up and set fire to railway buildings, and drive rolling stock into the interior of the country. All the grain and food reserves, and all valuable property was to be allowed to be destroyed. Nothing was to be left in the hands of the enemy.

Lenin was well acquainted with the habits of the German army, and he knew German imperialism at that time for what it was worth. And although Hitlerite imperialism, the plunder and violence of the fascists have far surpassed that of Wilhelm's army, Lenin's predictions at that period have a contemporary ring.

"The more victories Germany gains," he said, "the clearer it becomes to all even to many members of the German big bourgeoisie, that the war is hopeless, that even if the Germans are able to resist on the Western Front, this will bring them no nearer to the end of the war but will only create one more enslaved country which has to be occupied and held by German troops while the war has to be carried on and on, and will lead to the disintegration of the German army, which is ceasing to be an army and is becoming a band of robbers, of men who exercise violence over other peoples, unarmed peoples pumping out of them their last provisions and raw materials in face of the fierce resistance of the population."

As we see, this picture painted by Lenin 24 years ago differs but little from what is taking place today.

Lenin tirelessly inspired the popular masses to heroic self-sacrificing struggle against the invaders and maintained a high morale both at the front and in the rear. He urged the Red Army to sweep forward, hurl itself relentlessly against the enemy and crush him. The whole people rose to a man to fight for their liberation. Powerful blows were delivered at the German rear by partisans. The army of intervention could not cope with the growing resistance of the people. The German war-machine weakened. Its disintegration had set in. "They were bogged, finding themselves in the position of a man who glutted himself to his own destruction," Lenin wrote of the German army of occupation.

Lenin's leadership led to the victory of the young Soviet republic over all her enemies. And now when the Soviet people are fighting German fascism the people have remained true to the teachings and behests of Lenin.

To crush the armed might of the Hitlerite invaders means to destroy the cruellest, most savage and barbarous tyranny the world has ever known. This noble and exalted aim inspires the Soviet people and their Red Army, which Lenin created, to unexampled heroism both at the front and in the rear.

The war to drive the fascist hordes of bandits out of land and help to free all the peoples who groan under their oppression is a just and sacred war according to Lenin's definition.

IN THIS WAR THE SOVIET PEOPLE LED BY LENIN'S COMREDE-IN-ARMS AND TRUE CONTINUER OF HIS CAUSE, J. V. STALIN, IN MILITARY COLLABORATION WITH ALL DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES, WILL WIN A COMPLETE AND DECISIVE VICTORY OVER GERMAN FASCISM.

MOSCOW NEWS, 21-4-42

## Miracle

Article by famous Soviet writer, Ilya Ehrenburg in "World News and Views" of February 21st, 1942

The Frenchmen call the battle of the Marne the "Miracle on the Marne." In August, 1914, the German army marched on Paris. The French, defeated near Charleroi, were retreating in disorder. It seemed that the road to Paris lay open. Nevertheless, right near the Capital the French army collected strength and hurled the Germans back a hundred kilometres.

The battle near Moscow cannot be compared with the battle on the Marne. In 1914 Germany did not have to contend with the French alone and the "miracle on the Marne" must to a certain extent be explained by the Russian advance on East Prussia. There was no second front during the battle for Moscow. We bore the full weight of the blow.

Arrayed against us was the world's most powerful army.

For years Germany's engineers had been busy building an infernal machine. For years the German generals had their minds centred on one object: the invasion of the Land of Soviets.

We were building cities, working, studying. We were ready to defend our home. But war was not an object of our dreams.

The Nazis rapidly routed Poland. They finished with France with even greater speed. They captured the whole of Europe's war industry: the Skoda works in Czechoslovakia, the Creuzot works in France, the Liege and Rotterdam plants. They laid their hands on Spanish copper, Norwegian nitrogen, Rumanian oil, Hungarian wheat. The Nazis were marching against us with all the wealth of Europe in their transports.

The strength of the Nazi army can be judged by the number of campaigns. The Polish soldiers in Westerplatte and Modlin sold their lives dearly. Not long ago the French army still enjoyed universal esteem. Not all French generals turned capitulators, some of them offered stiff resistance. The battle around Arras was a fierce one, but the Germans won it. Small formations of

the German army in Libya are not only repelling the British offensive, but launching counter-attacks. Who can say, therefore, that we checked and drove back a weak enemy?

In November the Nazis were confident of victory. They distributed passes to the Red Square. On December 6, the Red Army changed to the offensive. In those very days when the Germans were discussing which regiment will enter Moscow first, the Soviet Command was calmly making preparations for an offensive. We will not call for the battle near Moscow a miracle. No, it is our people, our men, our inner spirit that constitute a miracle. No one denies that tanks are important, but tank builders and tank drivers are far more important. Man can make new motors, but motors cannot substitute the mind and will of man.

Autumn saw our plants moving East. The finest instruments were unloaded amidst impassable sleet or snow. And the workers performed a miracle: a week later the machines were already producing parts for aeroplane engines. The locomotive engineers have been working without respite, pulling double trains through blizzards 70 hours at a stretch. In one month the railwaymen coped with the task, and this, too, was a miracle. Children worked in the fields to save the potatoes from freezing. In the winter cold, Moscow girls were digging frozen ground. Women weavers, conservatoire students, were fortifying the capital. The heroes of Leningrad worked under artillery fire, repelling the onslaughts of the Germans and of hunger. Is this not a miracle?

In those days we again realised the strength of Stalin's feeling for humanity. His mind was not concerned with attacks on foreign lands. His thoughts were of a new world. He devoted himself to erecting plants, developing the Arctic, building canals to transform deserts into orchards, schools for the education of man. But not for a minute had he forgotten the danger threatening the country. And when the Nazi fanatics attacked us, Stalin bent over maps of the General Staff. As before, when he knew the exact number of tractors or the merits of one or another builder, he began to calculate how many anti-tank guns are required for one or another army. English and Americans who visited Moscow were amazed at his knowledge of military matters.

Wherein lies our miracle? In firmness, tremendous endurance and courage, which neither seeks an outlet in high sounding words nor in beautiful gestures.

Our offensive—there is the miracle. The Red Army men are marching in severe cold. There is no place for getting warm. No time for halting—high sense of realisation: ahead lie the Soviet cities with Soviet people, spurs the men on. To gain a day is to save hundreds of homes from the

incendiaries. To gain hours is to save a Russian man from the gallows and a Russian girl from dishonour.

Our allies admire the Soviet strategy, express their admiration for the equipment of the Soviet army. We may add, our people, the Moscow workers, the Siberian collective farmers, the Caucasian vinegrowers who are hastening to the help of the Ukraine and Byelorussia—they are worthy of double admiration.

But we will not be lulled to sleep by celebration. We will not forget the grim reality. Germany is still very strong. Germans are defending every well-heated house, for they fear the cold. The Germans will defend every strip of captured territories, for they dread the frigid touch of revenge. German engineers are building new tanks, new planes. The German generals hope for revenge in spring: either to win or to perish. We know they will not win.

The experts are testing the thickness of tank armour, its resistance. But there is no test for the strength of the Russian heart.

**"To arms, Slavs! Destroy the fascist aggressors!"**



**Soviet War Poster**

**By V. Odintsov**

# **Soviet Winter Offensive**

**Various Soviet military writers writing from day to day explain the war situation and the tactics of the Red Army during the winter fighting. Account of rehabilitation of liberated areas.**

## CHAPTER TWO

# **War Enters New Phase After Six Months' Fighting**

*By COLONEL S. GUROV*

**German retreat under increasing pressure of  
Red Army offensive characterises new situa-  
tion that has arisen at end of first six months  
of war on Eastern Front—Invaders continue  
suffering heavy losses**

HALF a year ago the armed hordes of fascism launched their attack upon the Soviet Union. Being the attacking side and enjoying the advantage of surprise, having its war-machine fully mobilized and possessing superiority in armaments, the German fascist army scored in the first months of the war successes that were, though temporary, quite substantial.

The Red Army, faced as it was by an enemy that had the advantage, particularly as regards tanks and aircraft, was forced to withdraw, but in drawing back, it did not leave a single strip of territory without a stiff fight. Our units kept on counter-attacking, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy throughout.

In September the enemy closed in on Leningrad, Odessa, Kiev and Bryansk, and on the Smolensk sector aimed its thrusts in the direction of Moscow.

The situation was serious, but the Red Army did not limit itself to offering stubborn resistance and stemming the enemy advance. Instead it began partially to go over to the counter-offensive. Thus, for instance, our troops on the Southwestern Front inflicted heavy losses upon the tank group under Guderian at Bryansk. On the approaches to Odessa, our forces, routed the Rumanian 13th and 15th infantry divisions, while on the Smolensk direction one enemy tank division, one motorized division, five infantry divisions and an S. S. division were shattered by our counter-offensive and the city of Yelnya taken.

The strength of the Red Army grew from day to day and month to month, and its blows at the enemy became more devastating.

In the first three months or so of the war, the Germans lost more than 3,000,000 men in killed, wounded and prisoners, 11,000 tanks, 13,000 guns and 9,000 airplanes.

But these huge losses did not stop Hitler from sending more and more reserves to the Eastern Front.

### ***Moscow Offensive Launched***

Having concentrated large forces drawn from all over Europe, Hitler announced on Oct. 2 the launching of a decisive offensive on Moscow. He counted on shattering our troops with one blow and clearing the way to the capital. In driving on the city, the fascists had their eye on it not only as the capital of the U. S. S. R. and a political and industrial centre of major importance, but as a large city that would offer plenty of accommodation for billeting troops over the winter period.

At the same time the Germans pushed ahead faster on the Southern Front, where they counted on reaching the Donbas and striking through Rostov into the Caucasus, thus insuring themselves supplies of fuel and motor oil. During their October drive on this front the German fascist troops actually did take part of the Donbas, closed in on Rostov, and in November by a surprise thrust seized the city.

Having taken Oryol and Vyazma on the Western Front, the Germans pushed ahead to the distant approaches of the Soviet capital. Heavy fighting ensued in the Kalinin, Volokolamsk, Mozhaisk, Malo-Yaroslavets and Tula directions. The defence of the Soviet capital became a matter of life and death for the men and commanders of the Red Army. Moscovites in their thousands streamed out to erect defence lines around the city. The historical battle of Moscow was on.

### ***Enemy Advance Stemmed***

By the middle of October the enemy advance on the approaches to the city was stemmed. But Hitler hurled new divisions into the shambles and in the middle of November, ordered his generals "at all costs to finish with the capital, Moscow, in the briefest period."

On November 16, the German troops, who sent 13 tank divisions, 33 infantry and 5 motorized infantry divisions against us on the Western front, launched their second offensive on Moscow.

But the time had come when the Red Army, strengthened and steeled in unceasing battles, enriched by experience and augmented by new reserves and armaments, could not only beat back the enemy's blows and counter-attack on separate sectors of the front, but was able to launch a general counter-offensive on all fronts.

The war entered a new phase.



## ***Soviet Counter-Offensive***

On Dec. 6 our troops on the Western Front started a counter-offensive and drove the Germans back around Moscow. By December 21, numerous towns had been retaken by Red Air troops, such as Yakhroma, Rogachev, Solnechnogorsk, Klin and Vysokovsk in the Klin direction; Istra, Novo-Petrovsk, Volokolamsk in the Volokolamsk direction; Ruza in the Mozhaisk direction, and Venev, Stalinogorsk, Mikhailov, Yepifan, Uzlovaya Station, Volovo, Dubna, Yasnaya Polyana, Dedinovo, Bogoroditsk, Aleksin, Shehokin, Tarusa, Khanino and Plavsk in the district of Tula, not to mention the hundreds of villages that have been freed from the Germans.

THE TALLY SHEET FOR THESE BATTLES REVEALS QUITE A SCORE AGAINST THE GERMANS, 11 OF WHOSE TANK DIVISIONS, 4 MOTORIZED INFANTRY DIVISIONS AND 10 INFANTRY DIVISIONS WERE SHATTERED. FROM NOVEMBER 16 TO DECEMBER 20, MORE THAN 117,000 GERMAN OFFICERS AND MEN WERE WIPED OUT, AND 2,113 TANKS, 48 ARMORED CARS, 1,578 GUNS, 731 TRENCH MORTARS, 1,796 MACHINE GUNS, 12,204 MOTOR VEHICLES AND A LARGE QUANTITY OF AUTOMATIC RIFLES, MOTOR CYCLES AND AMMUNITION SEIZED OR WIPED OUT BY THE RED ARMY FORCES.

The Soviet advance on the Western Front is continuing. The enemy is retreating westward, littering the battle-field with his dead and wounded and abandoning weapons and armaments.

At the end of November Red Army troops operating on the Southern Front under Generals Kharitonov and Remizov routed in the district of Rostov-on-Don General von Kleist's army group, which consisted of the 14th and 16th tank divisions, 60th motorized division and the Viking SS division, and retook Rostov. Leaving more than 5,000 dead behind, the enemy began retreating in disorder towards Taganrog.

At present Red Army units in the South are attacking the defence lines the enemy fell back on.

On the Leningrad front, following the routing of the Germans in the district of Tikhvin, a telling blow was delivered at the enemy on Dec. 20 by our Fifty-Fourth Army, commanded by Major General Fedyuninsky, in the district of Voibekalo, south of Lake Ladoga. The station of Voibekalo and district were taken, the routed enemy leaving more than 5,000 dead behind. Fifty-five guns, 21 Tanks, 91 machine guns, other arms and a large quantity of munitions and other supplies fell into our hands. The retreating fascists are still being pursued by our troops.

On the Kalinin front, Soviet troops took the city of Kalinin on Dec. 16 after heavy fighting. A severe defeat was suffered in this district by the German Ninth Army under the command of Colonel General Strauss. The remnants of the shattered German divisions are retreating westward with our units pressing hard on their heels.

After taking the city of Yelets on Dec. 13, Red Army troops on the Southwestern Front smashed the 293rd and 294th infantry divisions of the enemy and captured the cities of Livny and Yefremov. On Dec. 14, the Germans were driven out of Verkheye, northwest of Livny.

On the Northern Front as well, Soviet troops have launched active operations and are attacking the enemy at many points, inflicting heavy losses upon him.

### ***Position On December 21, 1941***

SUMMARIZING the situation as it was on Dec. 21, we have the following picture: the Germans are retreating under Red Army pressure that is increasing from day to day. The Soviet troops have finally exploded the myth of the invincibility of the German army. The Hitlerites themselves stopped talking about victories and are trying instead to soft-pedal the news of their defeats by producing a thousand and one excuses for these reverses. The Nazi retreat is the result now of unfavourable weather, snowstorms, severe frosts, now of an alleged premeditated plan of the German command to straighten out the frontline to facilitate defence operations in winter time.

These inventions, of course, are intended to give an explanation of the recent events to the German people and the soldiers of the Nazi army. But how many will still take these claims of the Berlin liars at their face value is another matter.

The German fascist armies are retreating because their plans to finish the war before winter did not materialize and they were not prepared for the winter campaign. They are retreating because the strength of the Red Army is increasing while German strength is being depleted. They are retreating because the fascist soldier, ill-shod and ill-clad, hungry and cold, is losing faith in the might of German arms. Fewer and fewer German soldiers believe in the invincibility of their army; they do not want to perish far from their homeland, in the snow-blanketed expanses of the Soviet Union, just to serve robber policy of Hitler and his predatory band.

## **No Respite For Nazis**

***By COLONEL S. GUROV***

**Red Army counter-offensive has wiped out German wedges and driven Soviet ones into fascist positions; Soviet troops have retaken 85,000 sq. km. of territory**

There is an old Russian proverb that runs: "One wedge drives out another." This is, perhaps, the best description that could be given of the

present operations of the Red Army on the Eastern Front. In the course of its counter-offensive, it has not only driven out all the German wedges and smashed them completely, but also driven its own wedges into the positions held by the German troops.

### ***Nazis Driven Back***

DURING THE PAST WEEK THE RED ARMY HAS RECAPTURED MANY INHABITED POINTS FROM THE GERMANS, INCLUDING THE TOWNS OF BOROVSK, WHICH LIES 25 KM. SOUTHWEST OF NARO-FOMINSK; DETCHINO, 30 KM NORTH OF KALUGA; MESCHOVSK, 65 KM. SOUTH-WEST OF KALUGA; MOSALSK, 80 KM. WEST OF KALUGA; AND SERPEISK, 20 KM. WEST OF MESCHOVSK. ALL THESE TOWNS ARE SITUATED IN THE MOSCOW DIRECTION.

YESTERDAY (JAN. 11) EVENING THE SOVIET INFORMATION BUREAU ANNOUNCED THAT A FURTHER NUMBER OF INHABITED POINTS HAD BEEN TAKEN BY RED ARMY TROOPS. THE COMMUNIQUE MENTIONED IN PARTICULAR THE CAPTURE OF THE TOWN OF LYUDINOVO, WHICH IS SITUATED 70 KM. NORTH OF BRYANSK, AND ALSO THE RAILWAY STATION OF TIKHONOVA PUSTYN, 15 KM. NORTHWEST OF KALUGA.

The Berlin correspondent of the Swedish newspaper "Aftonbladet" writes, that according to the opinion of German circles everything points to the fact that the Germans have finished readjusting their positions on the Moscow front and are preparing to hold their present line for the duration of the winter.

German circles can, of course, have any opinions they wish, but the Red Army is not worried by what is thought in Berlin and does not intend to let the fascists spend the winter peacefully. As a matter of fact, how can you talk about having finished readjusting the line of the front when it has only just begun?

It is not so long ago that the line of the front on the Moscow sector passed through Kalinin, Mozhaïsk and Kaluga. Here was a straight line that lay along such natural boundaries as the Ruza, Nara, Protva and Oka rivers. All this would indicate that the positions they occupied were quite suitable for defence during the winter. Apparently the realignment of the front had been finished.

Suddenly, however, the Germans found themselves thrown back. By Jan. 1, they had been driven 70 KM. to the southwest of Kalinin. After having evacuated Kaluga on Dec. 30, they had retired beyond Meschovsk, Mosalsk and Serpeïsk, a distance of 80 KM. from that city, by Jan. 9.

### ***No Winter Respite For Germans***

What happened? Did the Germans suddenly find that the straight line of the front was unsuitable and decide that it had to be bent in order to straighten it once more later? For was not a curve formed again with one

tip in the district of Staritsa in the north and the other in the district of Mosalsk and Serpeisk in the south, and they are passing through the district of Mozhaïsk, which is still in the hands of the Germans ?

No, of course not. The original line of the front was just the one which the Germans needed for the winter. It was no accident that as soon as Hitler took over the post of commander-in-chief of the German army, he issued orders to the troops to hold Kaluga at all costs.

THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT THE RED ARMY IS NOT ALLOWING THE GERMAN FASCIST TROOPS TO MAKE THEMSELVES COMFORTABLE FOR THE WINTER, AS THEY WANTED TO, BUT IS PUSHING THEM FURTHER AND FURTHER WESTWARD AND DRIVING ITS OWN WEDGES INTO THE ENEMY'S POSITIONS. NOR DO THESE SOVIET WEDGES RESEMBLE THOSE THAT THE FASCISTS BOASTED SO MUCH ABOUT WHEN THEIR TROOPS SUCCEEDED IN BREAKING THROUGH OUR LINES ON CERTAIN SECTORS OF THE FRONT.

The wedges of the Germans were of an adventurous nature, just like their whole tactics, strategy and policy. They consisted of mobile groups of tanks, motor-cyclists and motorized infantry, which broke through our lines in weak spots and raced into the rear, not paying any attention to the fact that Red Army units remained on both sides of them and that the main German forces and supply bases were left far behind.

The fascists expected that the Red Army units would flee in panic when they saw German tanks and motorcycles on their flanks and in their rear, as was the case on the Western Front in France. It turned out, however, that the Red Army units and formations immediately closed up with neighboring units and formations with the result that the German groups which had broken through were trapped, being cut off from their main forces and supply bases. At the same time, the Red Army command took measures to surround and wipe out the breakaway groups.

Such were the German wedges, they were rotten and hollow, and could be smashed and destroyed.

### *Strong Soviet Wedges*

The Soviet wedges are as strong as steel ; they are driven in soundly, earnestly and permanently by the Red Army. Our tanks, armored cars, ski troops and cavalry do not make rash dashes in individual groups into the German rear for scores of kilometers. Instead they carefully and firmly squeeze the fascists in pincers, both big and small, outflanking and surrounding both big and small formations.

AT THE SAME TIME, NO VACUUM IS LEFT BEHIND OUR TROOPS AS THEY ADVANCE. IT IS IMMEDIATELY AND COMPLETELY FILLED BY FOLLOWING COLUMNS, SO THAT THE REAR OF OUR ADVANCE UNITS IS ALWAYS SECURE AND SUPPLIES ARE SENT UP WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

Such are our Soviet wedges.

No matter how much the Berlin circles shout about the front having been straightened and that now they can quietly settle down for the winter, it will not help them. The Red Army will continue to drive fresh wedges into the positions of the Germans, smash the "winter" front and force the enemy westward.

During just the last seven weeks, that is, from Nov. 16 to Jan. 6, the Germans have lost more than 200,000 men in killed alone. The Red Army has captured or destroyed 2,835 tanks, 149 armored cars, 4,568 pieces of artillery, 2,199 trench mortars, 5,776 machine guns, 32,063 rifles and rapid-fireguns, 29,573 motor vehicles and 11,195 motor cycles and bicycles. During this period a territory of approximately 85,000 sq. km. has been cleared of the Germans.

## **Red Army Tactics**

**The following extracts from articles by Soviet Commanders and military writers give an idea of the tactics of surprise (so well-shown in the re-occupation of Kerch) and of flank attacks and the use of various arms including ski troops which played a large part in the Soviet winter offensive. They also show how the Nazis used every resource and measure to hold their positions and how the Red Army men countered these.**

### ***Tactics Of Retreating Nazi Units***

From "RED STAR" Army Organ.

In their pursuit of the retreating Germans the Soviet troops employ chiefly the tactics of deep flanking movements and encircling the enemy units.

The principle itself is not new, but the importance of linking the movements, and the difficulty of doing so is many times greater in the present conditions when the Soviet troops are faced with a mobile enemy. A characteristic of the present tactic of retreat of the Nazis is the fact that it is conducted on a wide front. Nevertheless, the main routes of retreat are the principal highways, and it is for these that the struggle is waged. The Nazis

are exerting every effort in an attempt to retain the roads and, while retreating, mine them to retard the advance of the Soviet units. The enemy covers up the retreat by a strong rearguard and small mobile detachments.

The enemy's rearguard troops are retreating from line to line. All inhabited points at the intersection of roads are strongly fortified. At such points the Germans put up resistance and attempt to stem the Soviet advance. They cling to every natural obstacle, adapting it for defence. While defending strategically important points along the principal highways the enemy mobile detachments are trying to keep the parallel roads under their control. To all appearances the Nazi efforts are directed at holding the roads and, while retarding the advance of the Soviet troops, to conduct the retreat as planfully as possible.

While retreating they must resort to twofold action, giving way in one direction, while waging battle in another. As a result the Nazis are trying by all means to simplify the situation and, most important, to avoid battle in many directions. Lovers of the flanking movement in attack, they are now resorting to every method in an attempt to engage the Soviet units in frontal fighting. Whenever they succeed in this the Nazi rearguard detachments fight as long as they consider necessary and then, taking to the trucks, quickly retreat to a new line.

To destroy the main power of the enemy is the objective of the pursuing forces. To overtake the enemy column, cut its retreat, encircle and destroy it, this is the task of the Soviet units. Deep flanking movements do not, of course, exclude frontal pressure on the retreating enemy. It is understood that the pursuing Soviet forces are not faced with a passive enemy, but an enemy who is offering stubborn defence.

### *The Example Of Narofominsk*

By COLONEL BOLTIN

The fate of this town, which the fascists had converted into a strong point of support, was decided not by encirclement in the full sense of the word, but only by the threat of encirclement.

Narofominsk played an important part in the plans of the German offensive on Moscow. The town is situated on the important Moscow-Kiev highway, 75 kilometres from the capital. At the beginning of December, the Nazis reinforced their troops at Narofominsk with the 20th Tank and the Third Motorised Divisions, concentrating considerable forces north of Narofominsk the Nazi Command attempted to strike a blow north-east. Had they succeeded the fascists would not only have been able to advance along the highway to Moscow, but would have placed the Soviet units operating in the central direction of the front in a difficult position.

This plan completely failed. The Nazi tanks and infantry which drove a wedge in the Soviet position were encircled and annihilated. Suffering heavy losses the Germans failed to move a step forward.

Near Narofominsk the Nara river forms an arc facing north-east. This permitted the Nazis to strike a number of blows north and south of Narofominsk in a converging direction. Subsequently, when the Soviet troops launched an offensive in these directions the Germans were threatened with encirclement. This constituted the decisive moment in the battle for the town, from which the Nazis cleared out on December 26. The fear of encirclement compelled the Nazi command to begin the evacuation of the Narofominsk sector.

### ***The Example Of Solnechnogorsk***

By MAJOR GENERAL A. VASLOV

Soviet tank men particularly distinguished themselves in the battle. With infantry and tanks they broke through to the enemy rear, menacing his communications. At the same time the infantry attacked from the front. The effect was exceptional. It was the first time we saw the Nazis break in such panicky flight.

An important role in the successful development of the subsequent operations was played by a manoeuvre carried out by Colonel Kravchenko. His motorised rifle battalion, supported by tanks, cut the Leningrad highway, reached the district of Dubinino, thus cutting the Germans' retreat over the Leningrad highway. As soon as our tanks appeared the Nazi formations defending Dubinino fled in panic...Moving through almost impassable country and forests Soviet units outflanked Solnechnogorsk from west and south.

### ***The Example Of Kalinin***

By MAJOR V. YUSHKEVICH

The Soviet offensive took the Nazis completely by surprise. The night before the decisive attack Soviet units crossed the Volga and entrenched on the bank held by the enemy, thus creating support points for the forthcoming offensive. The role of these defence forces was extremely great. The suddenness and swiftness with which the Soviet units acted to a considerable extent determined the outcome of the first day of fighting.

The enemy quickly realised the danger facing him and threw all the forces at his disposal into the battle.

.....The Nazis were feverishly manœuvring with their reserves. During our offensive we met the 252nd regiment at three different points of the front and invariably put it to flight. On this sector at any rate the Nazis exhausted their reserves.

Realising the hopelessness of their attempts to check the Soviet troops the Germans attempted to destroy Soviet communications.....But the Soviet commanders did not let the initiative slip out of their hands and swiftly routed the enemy.....

Soviet troops appeared in the enemy rear on skis, sledges, automobiles\*

In this offensive the Soviet command made extensive use of the tactics of striking the Nazi points of resistance, outflanking the fortified points, driving wedges between the positions of various units. The Soviet troops are now counterposing the enemy tactics by their own superior tactics, striking when the enemy least expects a blow.

## **Spring Sees Continued Soviet Advance**

*By COLONEL N. ZHURAVLEV*

Written April 21st 1942.

With spring mud seriously hampering the movement of troops and shipment of supplies, there are no changes of any importance to report on the Soviet-German front in the past week. Even air activity, which alone was unaffected by the condition of the roads, had to be reduced in scale owing to bad weather conditions.

This does not mean, however, that hostilities are at a standstill. On the contrary, fighting is in progress all along the front. Soviet troops, holding the initiative, are continuing to give the Germans no rest, day or night, advancing steadily and striking heavily now on one, now on another sector of the front. The Red Army is continuing to wear out its adversary keeping him pinned down in his now water-logged trenches and forts, and forcing him to move his reserves through the deep mud of roads.

In addition to physically exhausting the enemy, the Red Army is inflicting huge losses on the Germans, as is seen from the figures published by the Soviet Information Bureau for the first 10 days of April on the Lenin-grad front. Besides regular Red Army troops, Soviet guerillas are making things extremely unpleasant for the Germans. The soggy condition of the countryside is favourable for the operations of the light, highly mobile detachments of guerilla fighters thoroughly familiar with the locality; the coming of spring is giving these detachments more and more freedom of action every day while making them increasingly elusive to the Germans.



During the past week the Soviet press has carried numerous reports of brilliant guerilla operations. The popular avengers, as they are called, gave the Germans plenty of trouble during the winter, thereby rendering invaluable assistance to the Red Army, but now that warm weather has arrived and, as the Russian proverb says, "every willow will serve as pillow," the opportunities for active operations are greater than ever before.

With a powerful guerilla movement operating in the enemy rear, every kilometer of the Red Army's advance is fraught with deadly peril for the Germans. That explains the nervousness with which the Germans are reacting to the Red Army advance on a number of sectors of the front, throwing into counter-attack everything they happen to have at hand in the given district at the given moment.

On the Kalinin front, for example, the Germans have been using tanks on a big scale in counter-attacking. The Red Army is retaliating in kind, and the number of tank battles increase from day to day. The results of these battles are extremely favorable for the Soviet troops since the enemy tank losses are several times greater than those of the Red Army.

There is one interesting detail in connection with German tank tactics: they send their tanks into action under cover of fire from mobile guns, and when the German tanks have to deal not only with Soviet tanks but with Soviet infantry as well, the German tanks are PRECEDED instead of FOLLOWED by their infantry, or they have rapid-fire gunners perched on top. This tactic was not employed by the Germans either in Poland or in France, or on the Soviet-German front in 1941.

THIS TACTIC EMPLOYED BY THE GERMANS AT PRESENT AMOUNTS TO MAKING TANKS AN ADJUNCT OF INFANTRY, WHEREAS UNTIL NOW THE GERMANS REGARDED THEM AS AN INDEPENDENT FIGHTING FORCE CAPABLE OF INSURING SPEEDY VICTORY.

THE CHANGE IN GERMAN TANK TACTICS CANNOT BE ATTRIBUTED TO ANY PREDILECTION FOR VARIETY ON THE PART OF THE GERMAN GENERALS. THE REAL REASON FOR IT IS THAT THE RED ARMY HAS DEVELOPED ITS TECHNIQUE OF COMBATING TANKS TO A POINT WHERE THE GERMAN ARMORED WEDGES ARE UNABLE TO STAND UP BEFORE IT. THE CHANGE IN TACTICS IS, MOREOVER, ADDITIONAL PROOF THAT THE TIME WHEN THE GERMANS SET THE PACE ON THE BATTLEFIELD HAS PASSED NEVER TO RETURN., THE INITIATIVE IS NO LONGER THEIRS.

In the air, fighting has not been particularly intensive during the past week owing to bad weather. The German air force was mainly active as before, over the frontlines, which points once more to the difficulties experienced by the German command with regard to reserves. These difficulties are magnified by the losses in men which are so great that the German command has been so far unable to build up substantial reserves immediately

behind the front, being as it is obliged to use all available men as replacements to cover current losses.

THE ATTEMPT MADE BY THE GERMAN COMMAND TO FILL THE BREACH BY AIR ACTION MAY BE SAID TO HAVE FAILED, NOT ONLY BECAUSE THE WEATHER LIMITED THE SCOPE OF OPERATIONS, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE SOVIET AIR FORCE HAS SUPREMACY IN THE AIR ON THE DECISIVE SECTORS OF THE FRONT.

The latest German aerial tactics is sufficient indication of the difficulties the Nazi air force has to contend with. They now fly exclusively in mixed groups of fighters and bombers. The number of airplanes in each group is between 20 and 25. This shows that the Germans are obviously striving to break through the Soviet air barrage by force of numbers. But the heavy losses the Luftwaffe is suffering daily shows that it is not meeting with success. These large mixed air squadrons furnish the best proof of the might of the Soviet air force and the superiority of Soviet pilots over the German.

Our success in the air can be attributed not only to the higher quality of Soviet planes—although this is no doubt of major importance. The principal superiority of the Soviet air force over the German is in the men, in the Soviet pilots, their valor, courage and skill.

The lack of spirit on the part of the German flyers cannot be compensated for either by Goebbels' speeches and articles or by the most brilliant airplane designs. This is proved over again in daily aerial encounters.

The enemy is still strong. He is still capable of replenishing his forces and of making up for the heavy material losses inflicted by the Soviet air force. But he is incapable of restoring the morale of his flyers. This means that one of the principal factors in warfare and one upon which Hitler relied so much when he launched his sanguinary adventure, has been seriously undermined by the Soviet air force.

## **Liberated Soviet Districts Heal Wounds Of Fascist Incursion**

*By V. BARYKIN*

Written February 1942.

It has been estimated that 80 Soviet cities and 4,800 towns and villages were liberated by the Red Army from the German invaders between Nov. 29 when Rostov-on-Don was retaken, and Feb. 7.

To date the Tula, Moscow and Ryazan regions have been completely cleared, and a large part of Kalinin Region and a considerable section of Leningrad Region have been freed of the German yoke. The liberation of Smolensk Region and the Ukraine has begun. And the advance of the Red Army is continuing.

Wherever the fascist hordes set foot they brought with them a reign of unbridled violence, pillage and devastation.

In Moscow Region, the German troops occupied 16 districts entirely and 10 partly. In this area they burned down 40,000 peasant cottages, 760 school buildings, 160 hospitals, and 800 libraries and club houses. The damage they caused in this region alone is estimated at more than, 21,500 million rubles.

The retreating Germans are leaving behind them hundreds of thousands of people whom they deprived of food, clothing and shelter.

### *Restoration Begins At Once*

Local administrative bodies are launching the restoration of all that the Germans destroyed as soon as the invaders are driven out. First comes the organization of trade and the distribution of bread and other essential foodstuffs. Immediately upon the liberation of the Moscow Region districts, hundreds of tons of various foodstuffs, including flour, meat, sugar, fats canned goods and confectionery products, were sent there. The same was done in the case of the other liberated areas.

Likewise large quantities of manufactured goods are being shipped to the liberated districts. Literally everything, right down to spoons, must be supplied, so thoroughly did the Germans destroy and carry off everything that fell in their path.

The local population is actively participating in healing the ghastly wounds of Nazi occupation. In Klin, for instance, hundreds of the city's residents are repairing bridges and helping to put the roads into shape. Teachers are preparing to reopen schools and doctors have buckled down to restoring medical services. A goodly number of people robbed of all their possessions by the Germans have been supplied with warm clothing and footwear as well as other necessary articles.

In the middle of January I had the opportunity to accompany M. I. Kalinin, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, on his visit to Kalinin, formerly Tver Region. Kalinin personally acquainted himself with the devastation caused by the German vandals in his native region and city. During the trip he met leading local administrative officials, factory

directors, workers and collective farmers, and upon all he impressed one principal thought :

**“THE DAMAGE MUST BE REPAIRED AS FAST AS POSSIBLE, SO AS IMMEDIATELY TO RESUME WAR PRODUCTION FOR THE RED ARMY AND THUS HELP IT BEAT THE ENEMY.”**

Soviet people freed of Hitler's chains are truly following this injunction. Enterprises producing for the front have been restored and put into operation in Kalinin, Kaluga and other cities. The mines of the Moscow Coal Basin are being rapidly put into operating condition, while many of them are already producing coal for Moscow and Moscow Region. The collective farmers of the liberated districts of the region have vigorously applied themselves to putting their farms in order and preparing for the spring sowing. Like reports coming from all other liberated districts, where both city and countryside are engaged in rapidly repairing the damage wrought by the invaders.

***Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya, Hero of the Soviet Union***

18 years old Soviet Guerilla Heroine of Moscow region  
who suffered martyrdom at the hands of the Hitlerites.



# **Red Soldiers And Guerillas**

**Literary snapshots of various types of Red  
Army fighters—officers, men and civilians.**

## CHAPTER THREE

# **Portrait of Red Army General**

*By S. KUZMENKO*

IT WAS during the days pregnant with menace when the Hitlerite hordes had pushed up to the very gates of Moscow that the fame of Major General Afanasy Beloborodov first resounded throughout the land. His division was one of the heroic Red Army units which together with regiments of Moscow workers stemmed the onslaught of the armoured fascist monster and, smiting it a crushing blow, forced it to take to its heels.

I met him in divisional headquarters. The general is not above medium height, stocky and broadshouldered, and his every movement betrays resolution and energy. How popular he is with his men I saw the following day when I visited the trenches. The pride and affection they felt for their commander was apparent in everything they said.

"Have you seen the General?"

"Have you spoken with our General?"

"He's a brave chap, as good as any of them!"

"No airs about him either!"

That is what they had to say about him, the men he had led into battle, who had been with him through temporary reverses, who had hurled themselves into attack many a time and had many a valorous exploit to their credit.

### *The Battle At Istra*

All seasoned soldiers who had distinguished themselves in action, the men were only too grateful for the opportunity to talk at length about their general. By universal accord the battle at Istra was deemed the most striking example of Beloborodov's talent and courage as an army leader.

It had been a bitterly cold winter's day with the thermometer at 28 degrees below zero Centigrade. Beloborodov's division had forced the enemy back to the western bank of the Istra River by a series of vigorous offensive operations. The Germans commenced hurriedly to entrench themselves to prevent our troops from crossing the river. It was the task of the division to stop them from digging in and to do so it had to capture the enemy positions.

The assignment was an extremely difficult one. Beloborodov's division fought for more than two days and two nights without let-up to achieve its goal against three picked enemy divisions.

Notwithstanding the numerical superiority of the enemy, the general gave the order to attack. When our units advanced to cross the frozen river, the Germans blew up the Istra reservoir, and a flood of icy water rushed down-stream. In the meantime the fascists were digging themselves in and bringing up fresh units closer to the river.

Under a hurricane of fire our sappers improvised a bridge that was once blown up by enemy trench mortars. Two more attempts were similarly frustrated. Time was passing, and the enemy still had the advantage.

Beloborodov, who believed in the power of his men's patriotism, decided to effect the crossing by all available means.

He was not mistaken in his men. Using rafts, stray logs and planks or simply wading, the fearless Red Army men plunged into the water. Heavy trench mortar, machine-gun and automatic rifle fire could not deter them. As they emerged from the water on the opposite shore, their uniforms froze stiff on their bodies, but they plunged into attack, General Beloborodov among them. His own clothing was wet and icy.

The Germans fell back before the attack, withdrawing before what they called a "wild" onslaught of our men. The first thing he did when the battle was over was to seek out the Red Army man who had waded across the river first. He embraced him as he would his own son, and for the first time his men saw tears in their commander's eyes.

General Beloborodov is noted for his gift of swiftly sizing up situations however complex they might be, and, swiftly arriving at decisions.

He never loses his head. However critical the position might be, he invariably retains the calm composure so essential at such moments. He listens to reports and at once decides on a course of action, and what is more, one that has been thought out in every detail.

Once, at the time the Red Army was retreating on one of the sectors of the front, Beloborodov's division had to cover the withdrawal of our main forces to enable them to entrench themselves in new positions. The division carried out the assignment brilliantly, but in the end it found itself hard pressed from the north, west and south. All the roads leading to our main positions were controlled by the Germans. The German command concentrated its forces on the most convenient route for withdrawal and made ready for battle.

### *Outwits Enemy*

Our scouts brought the alarming news to headquarters. Beloborodov studied the situation carefully until he hit upon a plan to outwit the Germans. Having observed that the Germans strive to fight exclusively on the



main roads, he decided to take advantage of this tactic. Leaving the advanced units, which were directly in contact with the enemy vanguard, temporarily where they were, and ordering a small unit to keep the enemy positions on the main road under fire, he led his main force under cover of night through country lanes and woods to our own side. The division emerged from enemy encirclement intact.

During fighting at another point, Beloborodov's division stopped the enemy's advance towards the east. These battles were a severe test for the division, perhaps the most severe it has had to face.

The divisional commander issued an order which read: "Not a step back under any circumstances. We must stop and rout the fascists here and now, or die to the last man for our country, for Moscow. Not a step back!"

The enemy fought furiously. Over the corpses of their dead, the fascists hurled themselves forward only to be cut down by our fire. The enemy trench mortars kept up a steady barrage against our lines and launched attack after attack. But Beloborodov's men stood their ground firmly.

At one point the enemy concentrated particularly heavy fire on our left flank, where commander Uralsky's battalion was operating. Every few minutes the major-general would telephone to Uralsky, heartening him with some words of encouragement. "Now then, let's hear the good news on your sector," he would inquire in a cheerful voice.

The battalion commander had not slept for three days and his men had had no food for more than 24 hours. All this Beloborobov knew very well. He felt deeply for these splendid men, but he demanded supreme tension of energy and will, staunchness and resolution.

"We will die rather than yield an inch," the battalion commander would reply to the general's inquiries.

When they brought the general the report that the Germans had broken through our front lines and that our men exhausted and deafened by the inferno of exploding mines and shells, seemed about to falter, Beloborodov hurried to the spot. He strode along the frontline positions at his full height. The men in the dugouts and trenches were horrified at his apparent recklessness:

"Comrade General. watch out, there are mines exploding all around here." "Mines?" echoed the general in mock surprise. "Mines don't touch you if you're not afraid of them!"

The men marveled at his fearlessness. When he gave the order to attack, he too snatched up a rifle and, cheering as loudly as the rest, rushed into the fray together with his men. Inspired by his example, every Red Army man fought with greater courage than ever before. The battle was won. The general himself bayoneted several Germans in the course of the fighting,

When they learned that the Government had rewarded the unit by naming it a Guards Division, it was the valor of their divisional commander, General Beloborodov, that the men attributed the honor to.

Beloborodov himself had another viewpoint.

Addressing his men, he said: "This great and proud title of Guards Division we have all of us earned equally. I fought alongside you. And if you saw me in the fore that is as it should be, for the higher a man's rank, the more his country expects of him."

## Story Of A Soviet Patriot

You are taken to the liberated town of Kalinin

By S. GARIN

KALININ was still in flames when the vanguard of the Red Army forces which recaptured the city from the Germans entered it. Through the thick, black smoke leapt red tongues of flame searching hungrily for more booty. Heaps of smouldering logs were all that was left of the wooden cottages; the broken windows of the brick houses looked like the sightless sockets of corpses.

The local inhabitants had come out onto the streets for the first time in the past two months. They were busy clearing the roads for us to pass, hauling disabled German tanks and trucks out of the way, rolling heavy guns aside and counting innumerable wicker baskets of artillery shells—the Germans left behind a vast amount of arms and ammunition when they retreated from Kalinin.

It was bitter cold that mid-winter day, and the sight of a little old woman dressed in a light spring coat attracted our attention immediately.

"You'll freeze, Ma!" a cavalryman shouted to her, as he rode by.

"I'm cold myself and look how I'm dressed..." The man pointed to his white sheepskin jacket, his padded trousers and felt boots.

The woman smiled back at him.

"The Germans ran away with Aunt Katya's winter coat," one of the girls answered for her. "But you can't get her to stay home when there's something doing..."

### *Aunt Katya*

Two days later I had occasion to make "Aunt Katya's" acquaintance. She was a Kalinin textile worker; Yekaterina Trofimova was her full name. I met her on a small square leading to a street of textile workers' homes half ruined by the fascists.

Yekaterina Trofimova was introduced to me as chairman of the street committee. That was when I learned the story of this plain Soviet woman.

Before the Germans came she had worked as a weaver at the Poletarska Textile mills. Her husband, a pensioner, had been a deputy to the district soviet and as such had been chairman of the street committee. His duty was to see that the street was kept clean and to introduce all kinds of improvements. Ivan Trofimov enjoyed the respect of young and old alike; on his initiative a square had been laid out with a fine skating rink in the winter for the children. In the summer the street was lined with shady trees and there were flower beds here and there. "Trofimov Street" folks called it, although that was not its name.

The Germans have no respect for gardens. The first thing they did when they quartered their soldiers on "Trofimov Street" was to cut down the trees Trofimov had taken so much trouble to plant. The chairman of the street committee lodged a protest, asking that the destruction of trees be stopped. The Germans' answer was to hang him in front of his wife on a tree opposite his house. Her husband's corpse, frozen and snow-covered, hung for two weeks in front of her window.

### *Nazis Flee*

The Nazis who took possession of her cottage forced the widow to carry water for them to tend the stoves and do the cooking. Suppressing the hatred in her heart, the woman slaved for the drunken assassins. One day there was an unusual bustle and excitement in the house and Yekaterina Trofimova guessed that the Germans were preparing to leave the town. Here was her chance to have her revenge.

Losing no time, she made holes in the barrels of gasoline that stood in the shed. When the Germans wanted to fuel their cars for the journey, they found only empty barrels, and were forced to leave a new staff bus and two cars behind them. They did not even have time to punish Trofimova, for they were in too much of a hurry to get away.

As a matter of fact they would not have been able to find her so easily, for the elderly weaver was at the other end of town with a group of other women textile workers helping to put out a fire in their mill which the Germans had set alight before leaving. When she returned to her street later on, she found that her home and all her possessions had been reduced to a heap of smoking ruins. It was a terrible blow to the poor widow. But it did not break her spirit. For the first time in her life she found herself chairman of a large meeting, which sprung up spontaneously on the street. When Trofimova rose to speak she asked her neighbors to lend a hand in cleaning up the street.

That was what they were doing when I first met her. A few days later Trofimova, elected chairman of the street committee in her husband's place, was organizing restoration of the ruined street.

"When spring comes," Yekaterina Trofimova said, "we shall plant flowers and new saplings, and it will be just like my husband wanted..."

### *Dynamo Of Energy*

...I revisited Kalinin a few days ago. It is no easy task to heal the wounds inflicted upon the city by the barbarous enemy, but much has already been done. Many houses have been repaired, shell holes filled and window panes put in.

I looked in at "Trofimova Street." Yekaterina Trofimova was working at the mill. But her neighbors were only too glad of the opportunity to talk about her. "She's wonderful, that chairman of ours," they said admiringly. "We're going to elect her to the Soviet in her husband's place. Regular dynamo of energy she is. Her grief has not broken her. She would work day and night if you let her... In the day time she is busy helping to restore the mill and in the evening she's taking a Red Cross course. But she never forgets her main hobby, this street."

The women escorted me down "Trofimova Street." When we came to the little square the Germans had desecrated, I saw something sparkling amid the snow hills: in the bright March sun swarms of kids were having the time of their lives.

## **The 'Local Switchman'**

**A Story of Guerilla Life from the Bryansk Front**

*By S. GARIN*

At first his new name had a strange sound, but by now he has grown so accustomed to it that at times he does not answer to his real one. It is only a few close comrades who call him Uncle Peter; and far from all the men of the guerilla detachment know his last name.

However that may be; the history of the new name of this guerilla fighter who has earned the deep love of the local population—and, consequently, particular "favour" in the eyes of the fascists, who have put a big price on his head and offered a munificent reward for information concerning his whereabouts—is closely linked with his initial activities against the Germans.

I first heard of him during a battle when our artillerymen were shelling a concentration of enemy armoured units from the platform of a small frontline railway station. A special train consisting of nothing more than the locomotive and two cars had just pulled into the station, right up to the

battery. The train delivered shells, and they were just in time, for the supply was giving out. As Lieutenant Sklyarov put it, the first consignment "was sent right from the cars to its destination," that is, at the Germans.

### ***Unexpected Phone Call***

The small station building was half wrecked: a stray shell had carried away part of the roof, the walls had gaping holes, and the windows and doors had been blown in by air waves. What with heaps of bricks and plaster, broken glass and other rubble lying about, the rooms were a mess. The artillerymen had paid little attention to the interior of the building which made all the greater their surprise when they suddenly heard the telephone ring.

Who could that be phoning, and from where? Heavy fighting had been in progress here for several days and communication with the rear was maintained by field telephone. What's more the telephone lines had been cut long before, with the exception of one that led to where our heavy guns were stationed. Still the fact could not be denied: the telephone bell was ringing persistently.

"Sergeant Boiko, find out what it's all about," the lieutenant ordered.

The sergeant ran over to the phone. Several times we heard him shout into the mouthpiece, "Who's there?" Then, about three minutes later, he returned, visibly excited.

"Who is it?" the Lieutenant asked quickly, without looking up from his range chart. Fritz? Is he asking us to come over?"

"No, something altogether different..... There are no Germans at the next siding, but there is some kind of a railwayman who calls himself the "local switchman." He says we should shift our fire about 200 meters to the right and then we would be putting the shells exactly where we want them."

### ***Put Information To Good Use***

The lieutenant checked this information and found that it was correct. A few minutes after the guns resumed fire, the telephone rang again.

This time the "local switchman" announced that the shells were hitting their mark and playing havoc with the fascist tanks and infantry. Speaking to him over the phone, the sergeant learned that he lived in the woods, hiding from the Germans, had accidentally come upon the siding and, noticing the telephone, had decided to make use of it. The switchman said that he was heading our way to give us exact information about the location of the fascist troops. And since the Germans knew nothing about this telephone wire, he might as well tell what he knew right then and there.

The lieutenant picked up the receiver, took down the information and gave the "local switchman" an assignment. If communications were disrupted in the meantime, the railwayman would bring in his report personally

Several days later the lieutenant met the "local switchman." That was the way he introduced himself: "local switchman," and he pronounced the name as he would be a password.

He was no longer young, and with his shaggy beard, homespun jacket, canvas trousers and bast shoes, he looked older than his years. "This is all for their benefit," the "local switchman" explained, pointing to his outfit. "I couldn't very well walk around in my railwayman's uniform, could I?"

He crossed the front line back and forth several times, and the information he gave was always exact, as our scout details confirmed. The switchman was given further assignments, which he carried out to the letter.

Once, after a long talk with the chief of staff of our unit, the "local switchman" asked for as many newspapers as possible. He was given a batch of the latest issues of "PRAVDA" but he asked for still more.

"Why so many?" the chief asked in surprise. "You'd better take more food back with you instead."

"No, I've been asked to bring back newspapers, plenty of them, enough to go around for the detachment and the population."

Then the "local switchman" announced that a few days ago he had joined a group of railwaymen operating behind the enemy's lines. He handed over a letter from the chief of the detachment who asked for ammunition for their next operation.

"Our detachment is still young," wrote the chief, in peace-time, a locomotive engineer. "As time goes on we'll win all our necessary supplies from the fascists."

Soon after these events I left for another district and lost track of both the "local switchman" and the unit he was furnishing with information.

During the dreary winter days that followed, when the biting wind drove the snow dunes over the ice-bound swamps and the halo around the moon foretold still sharper forests, I frequently thought of the guerilla fighters operating in the Bryansk forests. For the most part the population had left, and the villages had either been put to the torch or occupied by the Germans. The guerilla fighters were most likely having a hard time of it in the woods, I thought.

### *Contact With Old Friends*

Several times I tried to get in touch with one of the detachments operating behind the enemy's lines, but nothing came of it. A few days ago, however, I happened to meet two men who had just crossed the line of the front and turned out to be members of the detachment headed by the locomotive engineer.

From them I learned that the group had grown and was doing good work against the German invaders. The men lived in warm, comfortable

dugouts in the forest, had laid aside large supplies of food—"We've raided quite a few German supply trains, you know," one of the men told us—and also had plenty of ammunition. All the men were good skiers, even those who had never been on skis before.

The envoys brought the Red Army men a splendid gift in the form of a report summarizing the detachment's activities. They had killed more than 500 fascists and captured a great deal of equipment, including two tankettes, automobiles, motor cycles, automatic rifles, machine guns, munitions and fuel. In short, the guerilla fighters declared, they had abundant supplies of everything they needed.

I was interested, of course, in hearing about the "local switchman." The visitors told me that he had been heavily wounded in battle but had recovered and was back again at his job as scout.

"He's the best scout we have," the man said. "Works right under the Germans' noses, does away with the sentries and blows up supply dumps. And he's as elusive as they make them. Many's the time we've given him up for dead, but he turns up again every time. His health is all right, only you have no idea how he misses his job. He says that as soon as we kick the Germans out of the district he'll return to his switches."

"And then," I put in, "the 'local switchman's' real name can be disclosed."

## **Lieutenant Fedoseyev**

**On the lighter side of war frontline stories**

*By Y. RODIONOV*

IT WAS during one of those rare moments of lull, when for an hour or two the thunder of artillery and crackling of rifle and machine-gun fire dies down and silence settles over the frontlines. A group of men had gathered in a dugout, among them Lieutenant Fedoseyev, famed for his courage and sense of humor. It was not long before he monopolized the floor.

"Want to hear a good one about a friend of mine?" he asked and went on with his story.

Senior Lieutenant Fedya Ivanov, it turned out, was a hotheaded chap who had the knack of landing in the most ticklish and incredible of unusual situations, of which there is no dearth at the front. Either he would walk into a cottage occupied by the Germans, or find himself somewhere behind the Nazi lines. But each time he had come through with flying colours, for he invariably was quicker on the draw than they.

"This time Fedya was not in the thick of it when we were fighting for that village. The place kept on changing hands time and again. Meanwhile Fedya, returning from an assignment in a staff car drove right into the village, which had been reported taken by us. He drove along calmly, keeping his eyes peeled, of course, and stopped in front of the only house the Germans had left standing.

### *'In Trouble Again'*

"Fedya jumped out, strode onto the porch, and there collided with three honest-to-goodness Fritzes. 'Hell!' thought my friend. 'In trouble again!' throwing his automatic forward, he yelled; 'Stay where you are, or I'll shoot!'

"The Germans muttered something but immediately threw up their hands. 'I must be a pretty fierce-looking chap if Fritz is so amenable,' he thought as he looked at the three men facing him. But at that very moment a Red Army man stuck his head out from the door-way.

"Comrade Senior Lieutenant,' he said, 'you're frightening the, folks for nothing.' And tossing his head in the direction of the Germans, added:

"They're prisoners, you know....."

We had hardly recovered from laughter when Fedoseyev plunged into another tale.

"We had been fighting for the place for several days," he went on. "The Germans were still putting up a stiff resistance, but you could see that it was all up with them.

"Just before dawn everything quieted down, the village was dead still. Everything pointed to the fact that the Bosches had taken to their heels. But to play safe, we waited a bit and then sent a reconnoitering detail of seven men to take a look what things were like.

"The scouts crept into the village, but did not see a soul around neither Germans nor local people. Everything was deadly quiet. They were still pushing ahead when all of a sudden there was a burst of machine-gun fire. Then followed another burst, after which there was silence.

"Aha," thought our boys, so the Germans have left some one behind. We'll grab them alive."

### *Make Dash For Enemy*

"They had noticed the cottage where the machine gun had spat fire, and cautiously crept toward it. And true enough, there was the gun. Only there was no one around. The fascists had apparently taken cover in the cottage. Waiting for what he thought was the proper moment, the



sergeant major in charge of the party dashed up to the porch, kicked the door open, and holding his automatic in readiness, called out :

“ Hands up; ”

“ Who do you think walked out of there but an ancient crone. Nor was she frightened or tried to make a getaway. On the contrary, she just fell at the sergeant major, hung on to him, cried and kept on muttering:

“ So you have come, after all.....so you have come..... ”

“ You could have swept the tough sergeant off his feet with a feather. He looked into the cottage, and true enough, there was no one there. Only the old woman.

“ Come on, grannie, who was it that put on all the fireworks ? ” he insisted.

“ I did, sonny. The wolves are getting pretty noseey around here, looking for German corpses, they are. They scare me when they run right up to the cottage. So I press the thingamajig on the machine, and it splutters and splutters. Just scaring away the wolves, I was.”

We roared till it hurt, and were just settling down to hear another story when Fedoseyev was called out.

# **How Soviet Workers Fight**

**Aspects dealing with the Migration of Industrial enterprises from front line regions to the interior. The work of Soviet railwaymen feeding the Red Army with supplies. Labour heroism in various branches of industry.**

**The role of free Trade Unions.**

# **Soviet workers perform selfless labour for victory**

*By BORIS AGAPOV*

MAY FIRST, which working people throughout the world have declared a holiday of labor, of creative endeavour, comes this year in the midst of the grim events of war. A war unparalleled in human history has spread to the two hemispheres and is raging in the air, on sea and on land, and all men who value their freedom have joined forces to remove the threat of slavery that now hangs over the world. Progressive mankind is fighting for the right to live and work in peace, to pursue its creative labors without fear of thralldom. That is why the holiday of labor this year is a holiday of struggle for labor.

It is a struggle that demands not only prowess on the field of battle; it demands supreme tension of effort in the rear.

The speed with which we work in the rear and the productivity of our labor determine to a great measure how soon we gain ultimate victory on the battlefield.

Looking back at the past 10 months of the war, one may safely say that the Soviet Union has shown what men of labor are capable of when menaced by the threat of slavery.

To insure victory, the Soviet people had to preserve the means of production, the powerful industry, a goodly portion of which was in danger of being seized or destroyed by the enemy.

It is still too early to gauge the full extent of the industrial evacuation which lasted for four months, but there is no doubt that it was colossal.

## ***The Trek East***

Over the railroads, rivers and highways, plants and factories moved eastward. Nor was it a migration of light machines only; rolling mills weighing thousands of tons each took to the road along with gigantic electric furnaces and turbines with rotor axles 900mm. in diameter. Huge iron and steel works from Dniepropetrovsk, aluminium, magnesium and other plants from Zaporozhye, engineering works from Kiev and Odessa, turbine and electrical equipment plants from Kharkov, tractor and combine plants from other cities rolled eastward with everything essential for normal operation.

One machine-tool works I visited in the Urals had set up its own telephone stations which it had brought along complete with cables, during the first few days after its arrival. When I visited some weeks ago a bearing

plant evacuated from Moscow, the chief engineer told me that he had brought along enough semi-finished parts to keep the plant going for several months.

But dismantling huge factories on short notice is one thing and finding place for them in distant and industrially little developed districts another, for here arises the question of where, in what sort of buildings, are they to be put up ?

One important consideration must be kept in mind in this connection. The war caught the Soviet Union when it was busily engaged in seething work on the fulfillment of the Third Five-Year Plan. How extensive this work was can be judged if only from the fact that under the Third Five-Year Plan more industrial capacity was to be opened than during the previous nine years.

### *Many Buildings Ready*

There is nothing surprising in the fact that a year and a half before the termination of the five-year plan period a large number of industrial buildings had been completed and ready for installation of machinery. Besides numerous industrial construction jobs were in progress and it was fully possible to adopt them for housing evacuated plants.

A substantial portion of the colossal capital investments in the Third Five-Year Plan went into those very regions to which the industries of the western districts of the country have been evacuated. Hence it is not surprising that nearly all the transferred enterprises found factory buildings waiting for them.

But skeleton factory buildings are not enough. The machinery had to be dismantled, shipped, and assembled in the new location.

It is well known that in peacetime the railways of the Soviet Union loaded a total of 80,000 to 100,000 cars a day. Freight traffic on Soviet railways was heavier than in any other country, the tonnage carried per kilometer being more than double than that of America. Nevertheless with the outbreak of the war the railways increased the scope of their work manifold. An idea of the high tension at which the railways have been working will be gained from the fact that during the months of evacuation railways in the Ukraine alone handled as many as 80,000 cars a day, a figure approaching the peacetime daily average for the whole country. The transportation of only one of the plants of Dniepropetrovsk required 1,400 cars !

All traffic having no bearing on the needs of the front or evacuation was stopped. Railwaymen were as much the heroes of the day as the Red Army men. Evacuation was begun at the end of the first week of war, and ended in the late autumn. After travelling for thousands of kilometers, the plants and factories arrived at their destinations deep in the interior of the country.

I was fortunate to witness this colossal migration. Let me try to give you some idea of what it was like. Picture to yourself a little "one-horse" town tucked away amid an ocean of snow, and a trainload of people and machines stopped in front of the wooden station house. They had been given three days to unload, for the cars were urgently needed elsewhere. Without resting after their long and exhausting journey, the travellers jumped out on to the snow and got to work. The icy wind that blew the snow into their faces chilled these southerners to the marrow, but they gritted their teeth and went doggedly on.

### *Nothing Stopped Them*

They had no place to live yet, no clothes warm enough to protect them from the severe frost; they did not even have any cranes to help lift the heavy machines from the car platforms. Yet everyone worked beginning with the plant director and ending with the wives of the workmen. And while the chef, who had also come with his cauldrons and meatgrinders, ran around the town to rustle up the first dinner in the new location, the unloading went on. By evening the snowfields around the railway track were dotted densely with packing cases. The chairman of the city soviet mobilized all the trucks in the town to transport the equipment to the factory buildings—still floorless, windowless and roofless—situated a kilometer from the station. It was being built here for a drilling tool plant under the Third Five-Year Plan program.

Precious precision lathes, delicate mechanisms that can only work under a certain temperature, had to be attended to first. They were assembled in the plants office building, which had already been completed. A temporary stove was installed, the chimney drawn through the window; and the workmen with clean rags tenderly wiped the beads of moisture from the machines. Temporary wiring was installed under the ceiling and soon the warm throbbing of motors was heard for the first time in this region of virgin snows.

Once a machine is running it might as well be producing something. And so the first parts were already being turned out by the lathes while hundreds of other machines were taking their places in the shops. The machines were installed, then roofs of plywood and canvas built over them and the power lines installed. When the machinery was already operating the floors, and windowpanes were put in and the roofing completed. In other words the usual procedure of setting up a plant was completely reversed. But this is wartime.

A month later I was taken around the same plant, now working a full capacity. Two old locomotives, standing between the workshops like symbols of a completed journey, were supplying steam for heating purposes, pending the installation of a proper heating system.

Of course, not every evacuated plant found adequate premises waiting for it. That is why side by side with producing plants you find huge construction jobs in progress everywhere you go in these new industrial districts.

### ***Rapid Construction***

The speed of construction in the iron and steel industry is staggering. The overwhelming majority of evacuated plants are already producing metal. A number of new departments have been added to the huge steel mills which were already functioning in the East before the war, and a completely new iron and steel plant of substantial dimensions has been put into operation. Yet all this is only part of the vast construction program of 1942.

The cream of the scientific and engineering forces of the country are engaged in simplifying and speeding up building processes. New methods of economizing materials and time are being evolved. Here is a case in point: A plant transferred to Siberia required two factory buildings with a total area of 10,000 square meters. They were built in 12 days—two buildings, each 50 meters wide and 100 meters long!

Since the new industry in the East must have new sources of raw material and fuel, the Urals, whose mineral resources are inexhaustible, has become the centre of attention these days. Thousands of scientists and engineers are engaged on the problem, with the result that the exploitation of new deposits has been started and the output of existing mines and quarries considerably extended.

Industry, like the crust of the earth with its mineral wealth, has tremendous potentialities which often remain altogether unexplored, let alone utilized. This idea was first expressed by the experience of many American plants.

An engineer at the Kuznetsk Iron and Steel Works told me of a typical incident in this connection. Some new equipment was required recently in order to increase the capacity of the works. In as much as the plants which ordinarily would have supplied this equipment are now engaged on war orders, the Kuznetsk steel men were told to produce the required equipment themselves. They were given the working drawings and, using their own workshops they built more than 10 cranes, a monster 220-ton ore crusher, and other machinery equivalent to a good six months' program for an average plant producing iron and steel equipment.

"We had things too easy in the old days," the engineer remarked as he finished his story. "We were accustomed to receiving everything ready made, but now we find that by hard work and rationalizing processes we can double our output.

### ***Sources Of Output Rise***

This is only one example. We might cite hundreds more. The resourcefulness and ingenuity displayed in Soviet industry spring from two

sources: firstly, the brains of scientists and specialists; secondly, the unparalleled wave of energy that has swept all the workers throughout the land. Every worker is doing his utmost to squeeze the maximum out of his machine.

The Soviet press carries an abundance of reports of production records. Thousands of workers are boosting output. The sole reason for this enthusiasm is the fervid patriotism of the Soviet worker. It may be said without any fear of exaggeration that these workmen, like the men at the front, would give their lives, if need be, to produce more. The supply of arms and ammunition to the army has become the *RAISON D'ETRE* for the Soviet worker today.

By their heroic labour Soviet workers moved their plants and factories beyond the reach of the fascist barbarians; by their heroic efforts, a vast number of plants, large and small, have been set in motion to full capacity, producing the means of destroying the hated enemy.

That is why May Day, which we are celebrating this year to the accompaniment of thunder of guns, is for the Soviet people a festival of selfless labor for victory.

MOSCOW NEWS, 21-4-42.

## **Soviet Railwaymen's Deeds**

*By S. GARIN*

**Difficulties cannot stop men that keep  
trains moving up to frontlines. Heroism  
on the western front.**

I STOOD there fascinated, watching those men restore a railway bridge near Maloyaroslavets. It was a winter morning with the thermometer pointing to 42 degrees below zero Centigrade, so cold that the frosty air seemed to catch in your lungs. But in spite of the weather, men let themselves down into the icy water dressed as they were, in quilted trousers and boots. Pushing their way through the ice, which had been blasted by a charge of ammonal. There was something awe-inspiring in the way those men worked standing up to their throats in the frigid water.

Ivan Gulyaev, the man in charge, told me what was in question. It was necessary to attach steel cables to the iron arches which had settled in the river, so that cranes could pull them on to the shore. The divers were to have arrived in a few hours' time, but the workers and Red Army men on

the spot would not hear of any such delay. "Why waste precious time for nothing?" they had said.

The ice-encrusted men were taken straight to a warm railway coach, but their clothes had barely dried when they were back on the job.

In the evening I went to the car they occupied with the intention of finding out what it was that prompted them to such efforts, But when I was told the story behind the bridge, it was no longer necessary to put them the question.

### *Story Behind Bridge*

The bridge had been blown up by a Soviet railway unit during retreat. Everything had been prepared in advance for its destruction, but fighting for the bridge went on until the very last moment. Sergeant Victor Miroshnichenko had been ordered to send it sky high when the fascists reached the bridgehead. Crouching low he had run to the fuse, and ignited it the very moment a group of German tommy-gunners reached the far end.

But something had gone wrong. The fuse had been ignited, but there was no explosion, and all the while the Germans were pushing nearer. Miroshnichenko did not falter. He rushed forward, to find that chance bullet had cut the fuse at the very charge. By this time he was under intense tommy-gun fire, but there was only one way of depriving the Germans of the bridge, and that was to touch a match to the charge itself, even if it meant death for the man who did so.

Severely wounded, the sergeant crawled up to the charge. The seconds he spent on the way must have seemed to him like hours. A final effort, and the bridge went up.

Finishing the story of Sergeant Miroshnichenko, one of the men I had seen in the water that morning—Yegorov was his name—told me:

"We decided to repair the bridge as fast as possible and ask the Government to name it after Victor Miroshnichenko....."

### *No Lag In Repairs*

People working on the restoration of railways know full well that the quicker they are laid right up to the front lines the faster will victory be gained. And they are indeed doing their utmost to insure that the rail lines leading westward do not lag behind the advancing Red Army.

Modern railway engineering makes it possible to repair roadway at a rapid pace. The repair trains are in themselves large industrial enterprises on wheels, with power stations, machine shops able to produce any part needed, powerful cranes, lumber mills, tractors and excavators. For the workers they have sleeping cars, club cars, dining cars, bakeries, hospital cars, etc.

On one of the sections of the Western Front I met Major General Prosvirov, chief of the railway troop administration. He expressed great satis-



faction after inspecting a railway station that had just been restored and several divisions of track running right next to the front, for the sector had still been held by the Germans a few days before. The railway had been demolished, but now the first train was expected on the rebuilt line.

"This is the speed with which work is being done everywhere," he told me. "You see, our people are accustomed to building, not destroying. Whether it is in the Far North, the Western districts or the South, railways never lag behind the advancing units of the Red Army. Our forces and technical equipment enable us to carry through restoration work on a grand scale even if in many cases it essentially involves laying a railway line anew."

As we were talking, the chief of the station approached and reported that the first munitions train was pulling in from the rear. On the siding at the station, he pointed out, was the "freight" consigned to go back—German tanks, motor vehicles, large quantities of ammunition, field artillery and anti-aircraft guns taken from the retreating enemy. Nearby were high dumps of German armaments smashed up in the fighting.

"Enough for a dozen trainloads," the station chief remarked.

## **More Planes To Defeat Hitler**

*By BORIS AGAPOV*

**Soviet Aircraft makers are guided by the single aim: More planes to defeat Hitler. For them each production assignment is battle order and its fulfillment a matter of honor and duty.**

AT ITS new Siberian location this is still a young plant, for it was evacuated here from the west only last autumn. But it already is working to full capacity, turning out tens of warplanes of the latest type every day.

Production began when the factory departments were still incomplete. The power lines, heating system and compressed air lines were all temporary and the floors were not all laid, but planes began coming off the assembly line nevertheless. Workers told me how in those days the cold was so intense that they had to warm up the pneumatic drills every ten minutes to prevent the thickening oil and grease from stopping them.

The first two or three months were tough in other respects as well. There were not sufficient housing facilities for the newcomers who came with

the plant, and many had to put up even in dugouts for the time being. But they did not undermine the workers' spirit, R. Smolin, an old foreman, told me.

"Many of us fought on the fronts of the Civil War, and almost every body has a near one at the front right now, so we know well enough what war is like," he said. "We knew well enough that the men at the front had no steam heated trenches or tiled bathrooms to fall back on. And we put the few to shame who dreamed of comforts at a time when the most important thing was to keep on producing planes."

### *Act As Soldiers At Front*

In those difficult conditions so-called "front line brigades" began springing up among the workers. They were joined by people who considered themselves soldiers on the industrial front, and were prepared to devote themselves to the army. For them each production took up its fulfillment as a Red Army man at the front carries out his orders. As for all manner of personal demands, each of the "frontline brigaders" realized the time had come to forget them, just as the man in the lines knows he has to forget the comforts and calm of peacetime life.

This patriotic fervor that fired the plane builders, who felt full well their responsibility before the country in these days of danger, led to splendid results.

The "frontline brigaders" became an inner motive force at the plant. Never did they produce less than the quota called for; in the vast majority of cases they had astonishing scores to show. Bulletin boards prominently set up in the shops reveal what each worker produces, and one cannot help but notice that almost always they double their quotas, and in many cases quadruple and quintuple them.

These are people who have given themselves over to the job completely. And their example is inevitably catching, so much so that from day to day the number of "frontliners" is mounting. Public opinion at the factory condemns people incapable of selflessness just as in the army it condemns cowards.

### *Help Solve Labor Problem*

The "Frontline Brigades" helped to solve one of the most difficult problem facing the plant at its new location: the problem of labor power. There were not sufficient workers owing to the fact that many of them had been called to the colors. Increased productivity of those who remained, however, helped to cover the deficiency. But not completely.

Newcomers had to be recruited into the plant. Most of them had no skill for their new jobs, part of them being collective farmers, acquainted with the tractor or motor car at the most, and part office employees and housewives uninitiated to industry. To teach them the tricks of the trade would have required months.

THE ENGINEERS AND DESIGNERS ROSE TO THE OCCASION. THEY UNDERTOOK TO DIVIDE UP PRODUCTION PROCESSES SO THAT EACH PHASE COULD BE LEARNED BY THE NEWCOMERS IN A FEW DAYS' TIME.

I was shown one part which used to require a highly skilled worker to make. The designing office solved the problem by splitting the part in two to make it easier to machine, designing new jigs to help in working it up, and having the two parts finally electrically welded. Now the worker need but clamp down each half in the machine, let the latter do its stuff and then remove the machined part. The welding and finishing do not require particular skill either. The production of this part was entrusted to the women who are coping with the job full well, while the highly skilled operators were freed for other work.

One could cite thousands of greater and lesser innovations in the same vein which are being introduced day in and day out to replace skilled workers by less skilled and release the former for more rational employment.

The self-sacrifice of these aircraft makers, their inventiveness and courage in introducing innovations in technology has been well repaid: The plant expects to exceed shortly its planned maximum capacity.

Painted in a white camouflage color, with quick fire cannon and machine guns mounted and sporting dummy bombs, the ready craft roll up for the last operation. Before them is the glass wall of the assembly department and beyond it the level expanse of the air field.

Then the wall opens up, and no sooner is the plane rolled out when a dozen people tackle it. These are the mechanics, gun specialists and other experts of the Red Air Force taking over the finished product. The roar of motors announces the beginning of the flying life of another warplane as flyers with their parachutes, fur boots and huge gauntlets climb on board.

The heroes of the rear have done their job. Now it is up to the heroes at the front.

## **Output And Quality In The Oil Industry Go Up**

*By V. DUDAVSKY*

**Assortment of products increased and technology of production improved. New fields opened in Eastern Districts Augment country's oil wealth since outbreak of war.**

THE OIL industry of the U. S. S. R. has made substantial progress since the beginning of the war. Not only has output been increased and

quality improved, but also assortment has been extended. At the same time the technological processes of extraction and refining have been modernized and developed.

Output of oil has increased particularly in the eastern districts of the Soviet Union, where newly discovered deposits are now being exploited. Rich oil fields have been tapped in the basin of the Volga—in the Kuibyshev, Molotov and Saratov regions. With prospecting work steadily increasing, large deposits have been brought to light in Central Asia and West Siberia.

It was considered by many that the oil deposits of Grozny were running low. This opinion has now been refuted as a result of extensive prospecting and today, with new wells constantly being sunk, the Grozny fields are yielding considerably more oil than they did before the war.

Geologists have also discovered new beds of oil in the Apsheron Peninsula thus enabling output at Baku to be likewise boosted.

Notable advances have been made in the treating and refining of crude oil. Before the war began aviation gasoline was produced in only two districts. Now all the country's oil fields are turning out high-quality fuel for airplane engines.

High-octane oil is being extracted on an ever-increasing scale, resulting in larger output of aviation gasoline. The latter product is even obtained at Soviet oil refineries from low-octane crude oil. Another factor contributing to the rise in output of aviation gasoline is an improvement that has been introduced in the process for cracking gasolines obtained by direct distillation.

Since last year the so-called thermocatalytic method of purifying gasolines has been used with success at a number of Soviet refineries. This method not only improves the quality of aviation gasoline but also increases the yield.

Production of diesel oil has also been extended and is now obtained from all the oil extracted in the country, including even oil containing sulfur.

Both quantitative and qualitative progress has been made in the production of lubricating oil. It is now produced not only in the Caucasus, as was the case previously, but also at the central and eastern oil fields.

As regards technical advances in extraction, mention should be made of the pipeless method that is now being used at a number of fields. Doing away with the necessity of having to line oil wells, this method results in the saving of tens of thousands of tons of metal.

Thermo-chemical methods of increasing the flow of oil are being employed with success at Soviet oil fields.

Not satisfied with their achievements to date, Soviet oil men are striving to boost output still more and improve quality. The country is following their progress with the greatest interest. A number of oil workers have been decorated with Orders by the Government in recognition of their services.

# **A Typical Soviet Plant At Work During Wartime**

*By M. TER-ARUTUNIAN*

**Trip to plant reveals secret of bigger output to meet army demand. All-out effort on part of personnel and greater efficiency give big boost to production and more than offset mobilization of workers.**

THE CALL sounded by J.V.Stalin at the beginning of the war to keep an uninterrupted supply of arms and ammunition flowing to the front met with a hearty response on the part of workers, engineers and executive personnel of plants and factories throughout the country. Displaying miracles of ingenuity and resourcefulness, the workers put their shoulders to the wheel, with the result that both quantity and quality of production showed a substantial rise in an astonishingly short time.

How this was accomplished was brought home to me during a recent visit to one plant producing machinery for the war industry. Here was an enterprise that has not extended its floor space during wartime, that has not added any new equipment, or modernized its machinery. Moreover, the number of workers it employs today is smaller than it was at the outbreak of the war, since only part of the men called to the colors have been replaced by young men and housewives, new-comers to industry in the main. As far as labor is concerned, the plant was at a disadvantage both as regards number and average skill.

## ***Output Goes Up***

It would seem that under the circumstances the curve of output would necessarily point downward.

As a matter of fact, however, the plant increased production in the second half of the year by 46.9% as compared with the first six months. An improvement in quality was registered as well.

One interesting index of improved quality is the reduction in the number of complaints lodged by the consumers: only 0.3 % of the total output for the period under review.

What are the factors that have made for success?

First and foremost comes the combined effort and determination on the part of the entire personnel, conscious as it is of its responsibility for

insuring the steady supply of arms to the front. More than ever before, workers are on the lookout for ways and means of bringing out the latent potentialities of their machines, and once having hit on a scheme to produce more they pass on their method to their shopmates. Concretely, this has been manifested in the spread of the Stakhanov movement. This movement initiated by the workers themselves aims at raising labor productivity by devising more efficient methods of work. More and more workers have learned to raise their labour productivity and at the end of last year, 43% of all workers were stakhanovites. As for the so-called Two-Hundred per-centers, what are they but Stakhanovites who regularly produce double and triple their scheduled output? Every seventh worker in this plant qualifies for this title.

Another factor which has contributed substantially to the improved work of this plant is the greater influx of rationalization proposals and inventions and their rapid introduction. During the second half of last year, 168 rationalization proposals and inventions were applied in practice in the various shops, as compared with 125 in the first six months of the year. Here again the workers have pitched in to boost production.

### *Improvements*

Here are two representative improvements introduced on the initiative of the workers :

Kholpanov, a foreman of the eighth shop proposed last November a change in the design of one part. This suggestion involves a considerable saving in metal and time. The part is processed in five shops and Kholpanov's design makes the work easier at all stages. It has also done away with four assembly operations, cutting the assembly time by 55 minutes. The asbestos sheets by wooden gaskets introduced on the proposal of Nosov, a worker employed in the heat-treating department, gives an annual saving of 2,300kg. of asbestos.

A noteworthy improvement was scored by the plant in the reduction of spoilage to 4.1% in the second half of last year, as against 6.2% in the first six months. Particular success has been achieved by the foundry where spoilage was cut from 23% to 12% and this figure too is steadily diminishing.

A downward trend is likewise recorded in the machining spoilage. Amounting to 6.6% in the first six months of last year, it dropped to 4.5% in the initial three months of the war and was knocked down to 2.7% in the following three months. The other shops have reduced spoilage to a negligible figure that is close to zero.

More precise organization of technological processes in the shops and better work by the inspection department is responsible for this improvement not to speak of the steps taken by the trade union to focus the attention of the membership on the weak spots in the work and help to eliminate them.

## ***Steady Rhythm***

A steadiness in the rhythm of production introduced since the beginning of the war is another factor that has contributed to greater output. Prior to the war, production was uneven throughout the months, only 20% of the monthly plan being fulfilled in the first 10 days.

The sum total has been an increase in output of 46.9% labour productivity rose by 32% in the course of the first six months of the war.

Such are some of the results attained by this plant.

That the reserves for greater output have been far from exhausted and that a further rise in production is to be expected was emphasized by all the workers, engineers and plant executives with whom I spoke. Apart from the new rationalization proposals and inventions that are constantly pouring in, the newcomers to the plant are attending special training courses and technical schools. All these measures are being effected by the plant itself, with its own resources and instructors.

“We will produce more and more high quality equipment for our war industry,” is the pledge of the plant’s workers. And they are living up to it.

# **Free Trade Unions In Battle Against Hitler**

*By A. L. MORRISON*

**Growing cooperation between the free Trade Unions of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States. Great battle against Hitlerism on the production front.**

IN THE battle to out-produce Hitlerism, the trade unions of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States are playing a major role.

Hitler thought he could use slave labor under the whip to produce the weapons of victory in his total drive for world conquest, while free labor in the democracies would be hopelessly divided and apathetic. But recent events are proving this to be one of Hitler’s worst mistakes. The organized labor movement in the democratic countries is on the march, with part of its members on the firing lines and other part at the bench and machine, loyally and enthusiastically supporting the efforts of their governments for victory.

In his talk to the Industry-Labor Conference in Washington, on 17. Dec of last year, President Roosevelt cited an example of genuine war

effort by relating the story brought back to him from the Soviet Union by one of his friends of how Russian plants were evacuated from the danger zone with the workers travelling along with the equipment in order to start production again in the interior of the country as quickly as possible. It was the same unconquerable spirit that led to uninterrupted war production in Leningrad and Moscow during the grimmest days, for the workers said: "Better to die working for the front than to retreat." Or, as one Leningrad woman trade unionist put it, "IT ISN'T DEATH THAT'S TERRIBLE, BUT LIFE UNDER FASCISM."

### *Stalin Prize-winners*

No higher testimonial to the heroic labor effort of the Soviet workers could be paid by the Soviet Government than the recent award of Stalin prizes to numerous workers, engineers and arms designers. Among the prizewinners were some workers who were unknown not so long ago, men who had no scientific degrees, but who succeeded, nevertheless, in radically improving and overhauling methods of production.

A recent example of the ingenuity and stick-to-itiveness of Soviet workers is afforded by a unique type of plant for repairing tanks. Here are gathered captured tanks produced for Hitler by the Krupp, Skoda, Mercedes and other plants in Europe. Despite the naturally wide diversity in type, equipment and armaments of these tanks, as well as the absence of blueprints or spare parts, the engineers and workers are successfully coping with the task of putting the machines into commission for action against the enemy.

With the approach of the May Day holiday, labor throughout the Soviet land has been swept by a new wave of enthusiasm and is setting new output records in the battle of production. On April 18 an ore miner of Nizhni Tagil produced almost 21 times his daily assignment.

Just as the gallant fight of the Red Army has won universal admiration so, too, the selfless labor of Soviet Trade Unionists has evoked widespread respect and interest abroad, which has helped to overcome some previously existing confusion about Soviet Trade Unions. There is a growing understanding of the fact that the Soviet Trade Unions, which embrace 25 million industrial and white-collar workers, are in many respects similar to those of America and Britain.

### *Joint Trade-Union Action*

Undoubtedly one of the most encouraging and important developments on the struggle against the Nazis has been the formation and activity of the Anglo-Soviet Trade Union committee. The exchange of visits of representative leaders of the British and Soviet trade union movement has stimulated the labor efforts of the number of production conferences and the more thorough utilization of the reserves of industry are bringing about constantly increased production of war materials.



In a speech to Moscow trade unionists at the beginning of this month, ( April 1942—Ed. ) Shvernik, leader of the Soviet trade unions, summed up the experiences of the Soviet delegation to Great Britain, which attended 12 trade union conferences and 50 meetings and visited 64 enterprises. Shvernik expressed the profound respect of the Soviet workers for the ability, determination and morale of the British working people. The meeting adopted a resolution which pledged still greater production against Hitlerism and urged their British friends at the bench to do likewise.

As is well known, the great American, trade union movement, with its 11 million organized men and women, is swinging into action on the production line with typical American energy, skill and ingenuity. Hitler lives in mortal dread of the power of the American economic machine, which before the war produced two-thirds of the world's oil, two-fifths of its coal, zinc, lead, one-third of its copper and aluminium. The plants, which produced three-fourths of the world's automobiles, are now producing tanks, and planes, and helping to achieve the Roosevelt goal of 60,000 planes and 45,000 tanks this year.

### *Step Up Production*

Increasing co-operation between labor, management and the government, particularly following the declaration of war on the United States by the Axis powers, and growing unity among the Congress of Industrial organizations, the American Federation of Labour and the railroad unions in the war effort, have considerably helped to step up production. Typical of the spirit that permeates the American working people was the special conference of the Automobile Workers' Union which represents 700,000 workers mainly engaged in tank, plane and other production vital for the war. This conference, among other things, called for uninterrupted operation of plants on a 24-hour day and 7-day week schedule, for the American workers realize that idle machinery works for Hitler, as war production chief Donald Nelson aptly stated.

Data published by the War Production Board in mid-April reported 500 labor management committee involving millions of workers in the effort to out-produce Hitler. Typical of this effort is a plant where, since the joint committee was set up, the workers have made 6,000 suggestions for stepping up production and improving output, and the management, in turn, has made 1,000 awards to the workers for the best proposals. There is no doubt that with American economic might getting under way with American tempo, Hitler has plenty to worry about.

As a result of the common efforts and single aim of the free trade unions to beat Hitler, mutual understanding and friendship between the trade unions is growing. The fruitful collaboration symbolized by the Anglo-Soviet Trade Union Committee is having considerable influence on organized

labor in America as well. Of late American labour has frequently expressed its admiration for the noble war effort of the Soviet people, a fact which is deeply appreciated here.

While the Hitler dogs are barking about their spring offensive, the free trade unions the world over are guided by one thought: to out-produce Hitler. They are determined to produce the weapons of victory over Hitler in 1942.

# **Soviet Trade Unions Go All-Out**

*By S. BERGMAN*

SECRETARY ALL-UNION CENTRAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS

**Trade Union leader discusses union's war work. 'Everything for victory' is watchword of 25 million members.**

NEVER before has the responsibility resting upon trade unions as the largest working class organisation in the country been as great as it is now, in the grim days of the patriotic war, when both front and rear are exerting every effort to defeat the hordes of fascism.

The 25 million members of the Soviet trade unions have made the Stalin slogan "EVERYTHING FOR THE FRONT, EVERYTHING FOR VICTORY" their guiding principle, and the work of the trade unions themselves has been readjusted accordingly. QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO PRODUCTION ARE PAID EXCEPTIONAL ATTENTION, and active trade union members have taken their place among the foremost heroes of labor. They are playing a leading role in the mounting labor enthusiasm of Soviet patriots working in the rear.

## ***Enthusiastic Labor***

The movement of 200 percenters—i. e., workers who turn out double or more of their quota is a splendid expression of the wartime enthusiasm that has penetrated our industry. Ever new workers are joining this movement with each passing day. The trade unions have lent a big hand in popularizing and extending this splendid movement, for utmost effort to raising the productivity of labor is the basic task confronting each and every trade union member.

Important factors in this connection are Socialist emulation, the popularisation of the experience gained by the best workers, and conferences on production. Let us take an example from the Urals Engineering Works of how the latter help in boosting production. At this plant a gasket maker by the name of Khudokormov increased his productivity 20-fold. The factory Trade Union committee took the matter up and called a production conference where the workers were acquainted in detail with Khudokormov's method. As a result many of the workers achieved a sharp increase in their output.

Invention and rationalisation schemes acquire a particularly great significance in war conditions. In this respect too, the workers, engineers and technicians at Soviet Industrial enterprises have displayed exceptional activity. It is but natural that trade union organisations should lend a sensitive ear to every rational suggestion and help in finding application for it. Special trade union commissions are exercising regular and systematic control to insure that all suggestions aimed at perfecting the technological process and improving war production are given immediate attention and rapidly put into effect.

### *Training Newcomers*

Success in the battle of production depends on people, their skill and proficiency at the job and their devotion to the cause they are serving. Hence the importance of training and educating new workers, particularly since considerable numbers of newcomers are entering industry and offices—many of them women who never worked before—to take the place of men who have gone to the front. Soviet trade unions are devoting more and more attention to the training of newcomers in industry.

To think that greater attention to production has detracted from interest in the material welfare and living conditions of workers, would be a great mistake. On the contrary, the war has confronted the trade unions with a series of new demands to the satisfaction of which much energy is being devoted.

Take such a problem as the establishment and maintenance of dining rooms. Provision of meals at factories is by no means a question of secondary importance these days when the Soviet people are selflessly working for the front and getting the maximum out of every minute and every second. Trade unions have energetically taken up this task, considering it their duty too see that public catering at factories and offices is arranged so that each worker and office employee gets his meals with the minimum waste of time

### *Diverse Activities*

The same applies to the work of stores, etc., serving workers, as well as living quarters, heating, bathhouses, laundries and children's institutions—kindergartens and nurseries. All little things of life are taken up by the

trade unions, whose tasks it is to provide the army in the rear—the men who fight the battle of production—with the best of conditions for doing their duty to the country and the Red Army at the front.

STALIN GAVE WINGS TO THE IMMORTAL SAYING THAT IT IS THE HUMAN BEING WE VALUE MOST OF ALL. In line with this concept, the Soviet trade unions, into whose hands the state entrusted such vital questions as social insurance and labor protection, have always considered solicitude for people one of their central tasks.

In recent years they have indeed made a splendid showing in this field, steadily succeeding in cutting the incidence of illness and reducing, and in some cases eliminating, occupational diseases and accidents on the job.

To the diverse and varied activities of the trade unions directed towards the maximum utilization of all resources in the country's war effort, the war has added numerous specific tasks which the trade union organizations beginning with central committees of unions and ending with shop groups have taken up with a spirit. Among these specific wartime tasks are the widescale training of nurses and ambulance workers, collection of subscriptions to the Defence Fund, care for the wounded, improvement of hospital equipment and organization, assistance in military training of the population, and the assumption of patronage over and adoption of war orphans. As regards the last mentioned, the trade unions have the honor of being among the initiators.

# **How Soviet Peasants Fight**

**Soviet collective farmers from occupied regions of Belorussia and Ukraine take their skill to the Volga region and the East to Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.**

# Soviet Agriculture Meets Wartime Needs

**Many farmers go East. Plants 'change address' as districts untouched by war boost output.**

***By Academician D. N. PRYANISHNIKOV***

(Written March 1942)

WHEN the fascist hordes began to advance into the Ukraine and Belorussia, large numbers of collective farmers went East. Leaving their native villages to escape the ghastly atrocities perpetrated by the invaders, the evacuees found new homes and a hearty welcome in the Volga area, Siberia, the Urals and Central Asia.

Many of the Ukrainian farmers, famed for their skill in cultivating sugar beet, are now in the Volga region. They have offered to help increase the area under this crop so that our country, in spite of the temporary seizure of part of the Ukraine by the Hitlerites, should not experience a sugar shortage.

The Ukrainians' offer has been accepted, with the result that this year the Volga collective farms, which before the war hardly cultivated sugar beet, will plant many thousands of hectares (a hectare is 2.47 acres) to this crop.

## ***For First Time***

In the current year sugar beet will likewise be cultivated for the first time on the irrigated fields of Uzbekistan (Central Asia). An area of more than 70,000 hectares will be sown to the new crop. In Kazakhstan up to 55,000 hectares of fertile irrigated land will be put under sugar beet. It is interesting to note that according to plans drawn up before the war the area under this crop was to have been extended only up to 45,000 hectares by 1945.

Sugar beet cultivation is also to be considerably increased in other eastern regions of the country, as, for example, Altai Territory.

Nor is sugar beet alone in "changing its address" this year. Flax, which occupies a sizeable area in Belorussia and the northwestern regions of the R. S. F. S. R., is now moving to western Siberia; there is much excellent land in the forest steppe zone suitable for the growing of fibre flax. The area under flax seed is being extended in the steppelands beyond the Volga.

The seizure by the fascists of certain districts producing hemp is also being compensated for in the East. As much as 250,000 hectares of irrigated land can be put under hemp in the Chu River Valley, Central Asia, alone.

### ***Returns To Birthplace***

Interesting is the history of the rubber-bearing kok-sagyz. Found growing wild in the mountains of Central Asia, the plant was transformed into a cultivated variety. It has been sown over a large area by collective and state farms of the central and western regions of the country including the drained swamplands of Belorussia.

Now kok-sagyz is returning to its birthplace—to Kazakhstan, Kirghizia and Uzbekistan—this time to the river valleys. It will also be planted by collective farms in the Volga area and Siberia.

Southern varieties of tobacco, which until now were chiefly supplied by the Crimea, will be cultivated for the first time on the farms of Turkmenia.

Even such medicinal herbs as digitalis and belladonna, which at first glance might seem of secondary importance, have also not been forgotten. Formerly medical plants were cultivated mainly in the southern regions of the European part of the country. Now certain districts of southern Siberia, as, for example, Oirotia, are beginning to sow them.

Throughout the boundless Soviet Union collective farms are preparing to produce this year as much as possible for the country's war needs. Even in the far-off Pamirs farmers formerly almost exclusively engaged in animal husbandry are now reclaiming land for grain. They are clearing the ground of stone and digging irrigation canals on mountain slopes high above sea level. This is but one of the many instances of the patriotic war effort common to all the peoples of our country.

## **Spring Sowing Speeds In Tajik Republic**

**Grain area is greatly increased this year preparations for cotton planting are under way.**

***By I. D. LEVIN***

( Written March 1942 )

SPRING sowing is getting into full stride in most districts of Tajikistan. As part of its efforts to provide the country with as much agricultural produce as possible, the Tajik peasantry plans to extend the area under grain

by more than 70,000 hectares (a hectare is 2.47 acres). Sowing is expected to continue until the end of May, when it will be completed in the mountainous sections of the republic.

A guarantee that this year's (1942) enlarged plan will be successfully fulfilled despite the exigencies of war time is the excellent way in which autumn sowing was carried out last year. Although a large number of men, as well as many tractors and draught animals, had been mobilized for the front, winter grain was sown over an area 31,600 hectares greater than the year before.

The importance of this increase in autumn sowings cannot be overestimated. Experience of former years has shown that the yield from winter grain is much higher than that from the spring variety.

A widespread innovation this year will be the reaping of two crops from the same field. Experiments have shown that this is quite possible in view of climatic conditions prevailing in Tajikistan, with its abundant rain and sunshine. Many collective farms intend to plant root crops, particularly potatoes, after they have brought in the winter grain from the fields.

Important though grain and potatoes are, the Tajikistan countryside still has the most important work of the spring ahead of it. Preparations for this, cotton planting, which will begin at the end of this month or the beginning of next, are in full swing throughout the republic.

Cotton is, of course, the main crop of Tajikistan. Although it only produces about one-fifth of the cotton grown in the Soviet Union, it holds first place in the country for output of the longstaple Egyptian variety. Today 40% of the area under cotton in the republic is given over to these varieties.

As part of the preparations for cotton planting, meetings of collectivizers, state farm workers and agronomists have been convened to pool experiences in all the districts and regions of the republic. It was pointed out at these gatherings that sufficient care is not always given to autumn plowing, which raises yields by helping to retain moisture in the soil. Another shortcoming criticized was the failure to arrange the timely cleaning of irrigation canals and ditches, etc.

The meeting noted the tremendous progress achieved in cotton growing in Tajikistan. This crop was not cultivated on a wide scale even as late as 1925, yet it now occupies the major place in the republic's agriculture. The average yield last year of Egyptian cotton was about 1.4 tons per hectare, and of American 1.83 tons.

In February 1940 the Soviet Government and the Central Committee of the Communist Party adopted a decision to boost the cultivation of cotton, particularly Egyptian varieties, in Tajikistan. According to this decision, the average yield per hectare was to be raised by 1945 to 1.7 tons for Egyptian and 2.65 tons for American.



Even the outbreak of the war last summer ( June 1941 ) did not retard the development of cotton growing in the republic. Despite the resultant shortage of men and draught power, the harvest was many thousands of tons above plan. Deliveries to the state were completed 33 days ahead of the previous year.

A number of entire districts actually topped the planned yields for 1945. Railway District, for example, picked as much as 3.6 tons of American cotton to the hectare. As for Egyptian cotton, Leninabad district, which claims about 70 % of the area under this sort in the republic, gathered an average of 2.72 tons.

Realizing that the countryside is faced with an extremely stiff program of field work this year, the urban population of Tajikistan is taking steps to help the peasants. About 40,000 town dwellers, including senior pupils, students, workers and employees, are now attending short-term courses in order to be ready to lend a hand when farm work is at its height.

## USSR Mobilises Huge Farm Land Reserves In East

**DETAILS of how the Soviet Union is mobilizing its almost unlimited reserves of arable land in the eastern parts of the country were discussed by V. D. KISLYAKOV, Acting Director of the Soil Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, in an interview granted Moscow News (February 1942):**

THE Soil Institute fitted out a number of scientific expeditions under Academician L. I. Prasolov to establish the possibilities of extending agriculture mainly in Siberia, Kazakhstan and Central Asia. The results of their investigations have been turned over to the Government, and measures are already being taken to bring vast tracts of virgin soil under cultivation.

"Our expeditions established," Kislyakov declared, "that at least 30 or 35 million hectares more land can be used for agriculture in western parts of kazakhstan and in the adjacent steppes of Kirghizia and Uzbekistan.

"Millions of hectares of high-quality plowland have also been found in Omsk and Novosibirsk regions, Krasnoyarsk Territory, Yakutia and

Buryat-Mongolia. The soil is particularly suitable for wheat, which will enable the local grain crop to be boosted considerably.

"These districts abound with black earth quite similar to that found in the Ukraine. This earth can be used for growing the most varied crops, both food and industrial. What is most important is the fact that no large funds need be spent for amelioration measures to make this land arable."

Kislyakov explained that the Institute's expeditions had discovered considerable land suitable for sugar beet plantations. Before the war began, a major part of the beet crop was grown in the southern and western regions of the country which were temporarily occupied by the fascists. Now beet will be cultivated on a much largescale than hitherto in the eastern regions, where the sugar refineries were evacuated in good time.

"Our expeditions paid particular attention to the question of truck gardening in the immediate vicinity of large industrial centers," Kislyakov noted. "Considerable land suitable for this purpose was discovered, for example, in the Urals, where many large plants have been built during the five year plans."

It has been established that it is possible to extend the cultivated area in irrigated districts of Uzbekistan, Turkmenia, Kirghizia and Tajikistan. At least nine million hectares of new land can be brought under cultivation just by reconstructing or extending the existing irrigation systems.

# **How The Soviet Press Fights**

**The role of Soviet Press in the fight  
against Hitlerism explained. Its unique  
characteristics.**

# Soviet Press is formidable weapon of Freedom & Truth

*By I. YERMASHEV.*

**Its task is to inspire implacable hatred for Hitler and Hitlerism. And further strengthen combat alliance of liberty-loving nations.**

MOVING stealthily on all fours, hugging the soil of the Ukrainian steppes, a small group of our scouts, armed with tommy-guns and hand grenades, are advancing towards the German lines. Having reached the enemy occupied village, the scouts open their satchels and empty their contents onto last year's dried grass. Then back they crawl, and as they go, a gust of spring wind blows thousands of leaflets and miniature newspapers in the direction of the Germans.

Watching this unusual newsreel brought back from Southern Front by a cameraman, we saw printed matter borne on the breeze into the German-held village and settling on its streets like flocks of gulls, sticking to window-panes, dropping on roofs and in doorways. And we know that a few days later some of these handbills and leaflets had returned to our lines brought by Germans coming to give themselves up. The Soviet printed word helped them to take at last the only sensible step; the leaflets and newspapers served them as passes, an open sesame to a new life. The tremendous importance of the press as a weapon in the present war was forcibly brought home to us by this episode recorded by the movie camera.

The printed word, THE WORD OF TRUTH, is considered as important a weapon in the Red Army as any. But it is a weapon that saves human lives instead of taking them. It does not belch death and destruction, its shells do not explode, and yet it pierces the enemy's armor of lies, hypocrisy, treachery and deception.

## *Armed With The Truth.*

The word "propaganda," used by some in depreciation of the significance of this formidable arm of the service, is totally inadequate. It seems to me that this word from long usage has acquired a connotation that tends to minimize the roll which the press is called upon to play in mankind's struggle against the brown peril. This is all the more so since the power of

the press of the free, democratic countries fighting Hitlerism lies the fact that it is armed with the truth—that potent high explosive with which its shells are filled.

And there you have the reason for the superiority of our press over the press of the enemy. Hitler needs must lie. His press cannot be anything but false. It fears the truth as the devil fears laudanum. Because truth is against Hitler, his regime and his policy. Hitler and truth are incompatible.

The role played by the Russian press in all the epoch-making events in the country cannot be overestimated. Press Day May 5, which coincides this year with the 30th anniversary of "PRAVDA," the most popular newspaper in the Soviet Union, is a fitting occasion upon which to draw attention to this role.

For many years now there is not a single plant, institution or school in the Soviet Union which does not publish its own newspaper. Most of them are wall newspapers, but some of the big industrial enterprises have their own printed papers. Hence not only do millions of people read these newspapers, but millions of people participate in their publication. Since the war began, thousands of army newspapers—from platoon and company sheets to papers circulated among armies and along entire fronts, have come into being. They keep the Red Army man posted on what is happening in his unit, inform him of the exploits of his comrades in battles, deeds of valor for him to emulate. I doubt whether any other army has as extensive a press as the Red Army.

### *Champions People's Cause*

The great Lenin once said that the press is not only a collective propagandist but a collective organizer. Indeed, the Soviet press is both a source of information and an organizational force; it does not only tell a story, it teaches a lesson. The Soviet press does not consider itself something apart from or above the people, their honor, liberty and their social morality. And in the present life-and-death struggle against Hitlerism it is fighting as furiously and intensely as the people themselves.

For the Soviet press—in the broadest possible sense of the word—Hitlerism is an insane and relentless enemy, toward whom there can be no mercy, and with whom there can be no compromise. And the press with its direct appeal to the emotions and minds of millions of people must be an example in this respect. And, indeed, can it be otherwise? After all, even a mistake committed by an individual may sometimes lead to grave consequences with respect to social morality during wartime. How much more harm then can be done by vagueness, weakness, and concessions to the enemy under the pretext of "objectivity" in the columns of the press? A mistake

of this kind will be circulated in millions of copies. The press is a front line weapon, which must be wielded with vigilance, deliberation, clarity and full realization of the responsibility involved.

In this sense the press, as a public institution, has nothing to equal it. No wonder Hitler makes such extensive and unscrupulous use of the printed word for his criminal ends. The German press is the very embodiment of falsehood and corruption. There is not the slightest shadow of truth in it. It is the true offspring of a regime of gallows and suppression. But happily Truth is stronger than Falsehood. Here the free, democratic press has the advantage.

### ***Fascist Objectivity.***

Hitler and his prisoners of public opinion are aware of this, and now and again they endeavor to assure their readers and listeners—by compulsion that the press of the countries united against Hitler Germany is “not objective.” But what is objectivity in the mouth of Hitler if not the negation of truth? And what does he and his odious regime deserve but hatred and contempt? There is not a single honest man who can feel anything but enmity and repulsion for Hitler, who has laid waste to our continent. His kingdom of death can only be repudiated in one’s innermost being and by one’s every action, exposing the criminal fascist barbarians at every step; and since they are seeking to foist their loathsome regime upon us, they must be repudiated arms in hand. To be objective to a writhing knot of poisonous snakes means, above all, to crush it!

To sermonize to the Hitlerite monsters, who are more dangerous than poisonous snakes, would be as ridiculous as it would be absurd to show them any leniency.

We know that our task is to inspire implacable hatred for Hitler and all his satellites in every man on earth. There is no task more exalted for the press. And there is one more task we must strive to fulfill, namely, to strengthen evermore the combat alliance of all the peoples fighting the common enemy who must be given no opportunity whatever to undermine in the least this alliance.

UNITY IN THE STRUGGLE AND HATRED FOR THE ENEMY  
SUCH IS THE WATCHWORD OF THE FREE!

### ***Collection of Data on Patriotic War.***

THE COLLECTION of all books and magazine and newspaper articles dealing in any way with the Soviet German war has been started by the Lenin Public Library of Moscow. According to N. Yakoviev, Director of the Library, this material will constitute a chronicle of the fighting at the front, the war effort in the rear, and the heroism of both the Red Army on the battlefield and civilian population in factory workshops.

The director claimed that there has been no let-up in the activities of this library, one of the largest in the Soviet Union, since the beginning of the war. "Even in the grim days of October and November 1941, when the enemy threatened Moscow, we did not interrupt our services to readers," he said.

During the first eight months of the war the library loaned out 467,509 books and supplied about 9,000 answers to requests for bibliographical information. The library has maintained its connections with foreign libraries and publishing houses. Over 1,676 foreign books and magazines received during the first two and a half months of this year.

The reading rooms of the Lenin Library are visited daily by more than 600 people. Yakoviev stated that 577 readers, for example, were registered in the main reading room on March 22. They included 17 professors, assistant professors and lecturers; 55 scientific workers in various fields; 76 engineers and technicians, and 209 students at higher educational institutions.

Asked what steps had been taken to protect the books fund from air-raid damage, the director said that about 3,500,000 of the most valuable books had been transported to safety several months ago. Measures have also been taken to safeguard the books and magazines remaining in the library.

# **Soviet Science and War**

**Soviet scientists address themselves to their  
Confreres in other Countries. Remarkable  
contributions of Soviet Surgery in treat-  
ment of war wounds. Scientific research.**



## CHAPTER SEVEN

# To The Scientific And Cultural Workers Of The World

**The scientists of the Soviet Union address themselves to progressive people in all countries of the globe with a protest against the savage vandalism of the Hitlerite hordes.**

THE German bandits long ago caused the whole world to shudder at the outrages they perpetrated in the occupied countries of Europe. But all this fades before the monstrous crimes the German barbarians are committing in their war against the Soviet Union.

### *World-Famous Memorials Defiled*

The deliberate, criminal vandalism of the Nazi hordes shows itself vividly in their outrages against the sacred treasures of Russian and world culture. World-famous historical memorials, cherished by every Soviet citizen, are destroyed in sadistic frenzy.

In the village of Mikhailovskoye the Nazi blackguards destroyed precious memorials connected with the name of the Russian genius, the poet Pushkin. They profaned the Mickiewicz Memorial in Lvov and Shevchenko Memorial in Kiev.

The House of Museum of Chaikovsky, where the great composer created the operas and symphonies loved and admired throughout the world, has been ransacked and devastated with senseless brutality. Memorable places in Yasnaya Polyana connected with the life and work of Leo Tolstoy—the pride of Russian and world literature have been defiled and smashed.

### *A programme of Hatred*

Soviet scientists share with the whole Soviet people their pain, indignation and justified desire for revenge. These crimes are not accidental. They embody the whole programme of Nazi man-hatred, they

give a small idea of the ignorance, vileness and savagery which the chief bandit Hitler has inculcated in the course of years into the ordinary German.

It is Hitler's delirious mania of physical extermination of whole people with their age-old cultures that has driven the Nazi gangsters to senseless destruction of landmarks of national culture.

It was Hitler's stupid and malignant hatred for culture and art, his hatred for the ideas of humanism freedom and fraternity of peoples, embodied in the creation of Chaikovsky and Tolstoy, that guided the Nazi scoundrels in their abominable ravages in Klin and Yasnaya Polyana.

The Soviet country, in alliance with the great democracies of the world, will eradicate the Nazi plague with fire and sword, and will ensure the progress of human culture. But we scientists of the Soviet country wish to draw the attention of world public opinion again and again to the mortal danger that Hitlerism presents for all the cultural achievements of the peoples.

**FASCISM AND CULTURE, FASCISM AND SCIENCE, FASCISM AND CREATIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE LABOUR ARE INCOMPATIBLE. THE HISTORIC STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE FORCES OF FREEDOM, CULTURE, REASON AND PROGRESS AND THE MOST REACTIONARY, BRUTAL, DESPOTIC FORCES EVER KNOWN IN THE WORLD IS NOW UNFOLDING ON THE BATTLEFIELDS OF THE SOVIET UNION.**

Protesting with profound indignation against the vandalism of the Nazis, scientists of the Soviet country call upon all scientists and all honest men and women in the world to rise against this barbarity of the Hitlerite cutthroats, to redouble their efforts, to rally still closer around the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America in order to attain final victory over Nazi Germany.

**Signed : Members of the Academy of Sciences of  
U. S. S. R. :**

Komarov, Schmidt, Chudakov, Kholmogorov, Bach, Stepanov, Leon, Orbelli Nikitin, Deborin, Varga, Meshchaninov, Eogomolets, Lysenko, Obratsov, Fersman, Mitin, Abrikosov, Baikov Bardin, Vernadsky, Vinogradov, Galerkin, Grekov, Derzhavin, Zelinsky, Joffe, Kapitz, Kistyakovs, Krylov, Muskhe-lishvili, Obruchev, Pavlov, Papeleksi, Pokrovsky, Prasolov, Skriabin, Sobolev, Speransky, Tarle, Tolstoy, Favorsky, Tsitsin, Shirshov, sholokov Stern, Yaroslsky, and others.

JANUARY, 1942

# Our Struggle For Liberation And Victory

*By Professor Zdenek Nejedly—Czech Scientist*

[ written on 29th December 1941 ]

FRIENDS and brothers, sons and daughters of the Nazi-enslaved nations, of poor, tormented Europe ! A Czech professor who has been barred from his native land for three years now addresses these lines to you on the eve of the New year.

I take up my pen today with a heart filled with great hopes.

I believe :

That the year 1942 will be the year of our liberation and victory !

Never before has freedom been so near, although the enemy is yet strong, although the black muzzles of his automatic guns are still pointed at the breast of Europe. The year 1941 has done us a great service. It has dispelled the dread of German invincibility. It has rallied new millions of Serbs, Poles, Czechoslovakians, Norwegians, Frenchmen, Belgians, Greeks—all those who were conquered but not vanquished by the Nazis.

1941 ! It has brought from the East, from the Russian steppes and plains, the glad tidings of our coming liberation. It has brought us the news of Rostov-on-Don and Tikhvin, of Yelets and Leningrad, and of the great rout of the Nazis near Moscow.

The German avalanche has been stopped in its tracks. It has begun to roll back, leaving heaps of corpses and smashed tanks, in its wake.

Friends and brothers ! Do you not hear the echo of the Red Army men's cheer coming from the East ? Do you not hear the tramp of the advancing Yugoslavs, the heroic guerilla divisions of Serbs ? Do you not hear the shots fired by Polish patriots as one Hitler cutthroat is killed after another ? Do you not hear the thunder of explosions in Czechoslovakia ? Do you not hear the distant rumble of the Norwegian volcano ?

The hour of Hitler's debacle is drawing nigh. The doors of our homes will again be flung wide open. Our children will take their seats at school desks to learn in their native tongue the history of our struggle for civilization. Once again we shall work, but not for vandals and barbarians, but for ourselves, for our nations, for mankind.

Smite then a mightier blow at the Nazis ! For our victory ! For the freedom of our children, our mothers, our wives, our fathers !

We greet you, 1942 ! We welcome you with rejoicing, you, the year that is to bring us liberation.

The horizon over Europe is beginning to clear. There are already windows of blue in the overcast sky. A hot, burning wind from the East is blowing away the black clouds. I believe, friends and brothers, that they will disappear and in 1942 the sky will be clear again.

# **Soviet Surgery In Red Army's Service**

**Surgeon scores in offensive against death. What once would have been mortal wounds are now successfully coped with by science.**

***By Professor N. I. Propper-Nrashchenkov***

Corresponding Member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR

( Written April 1942 )

ARMY surgeons estimate that injuries to the skull or brain constitute from three to six per cent of all war wounds. This percentage varies, of course depending upon how well the head is protected, the introduction of the tin helmet, for example, serving sharply to reduce such fluctuations during the war of 1914-18. Among other factors that cause fluctuations are the nature of the military operations, whether it is positional or mobile warfare, and the time of the year.

Whereas in the war of 1914-18 most of the wounds in question were caused by bullets, in the present war such missiles account for only about 20% and sometimes even less. The rest are mainly caused by splinters from shells and mines. Usually these are serious wounds involving considerable laceration and frequently infection, and rapidly giving rise to complications in the form of encephalitis and meningitis.

In the past such complications as a rule led to the death of the wounded soldier. Today, thanks to the efforts of Soviet scientists, physicians and surgeons and the experience of world science, I may confidently state that great progress has already been achieved in their exclusion and elimination.

## ***Wounds To Brain***

Here I would like to dwell in brief upon one class of complicated head wounds which our surgeons are called upon to treat in the present war. These are dead wounds affecting not only the bones of the skull, but also the cerebral membrane and, sometimes, the brain itself. Their number has risen sharply, owing to the use of new types of missiles of great explosive force.

The Nervous Diseases Clinic of the All-Union Institute of Experimental Medicine which I heard, has accumulated rich experience in treating such wounds since the beginning of the war. Between Dec. 25, 1914, and March 25, 1942, the clinic operated on 90 patients, 70 of whom had abscesses of the brain and, in the case of half of the latter, also serious traumatic meningitis, and the majority of the operations were successful. A goodly number of the patients have already been released from the clinic and, although many of them will not be fit for active service, they are gradually returning to normal life.

Many cases of recovery from really serious brain wounds could be cited to demonstrate the successes that have been achieved by Soviet surgeons in this field. Formerly these cases would have been regarded as hopeless. Now, however, they have ended favourably owing to rapid and decisive surgical interference.

During the fighting for the town of Yukhnov, a Red Army man of Tatar nationality named Khusainov was wounded in the head by a mine splinter. Smashing through the right frontal and the right temporal bones of the skull, the piece of metal penetrated deep into the cerebral mass, pulping the matter of the brain, in particular the entire right temporal lobe. The wound bled profusely with pieces of brain matter escaping with the blood.

### *Undergoes Operation*

Khusainov was picked up unconscious on the field and an ordinary dressing put on the wound. After being taken to a dressing station, where the bandage was changed, the wounded man was immediately dispatched to a special mobile field hospital. An operation was performed on the second day after he had been wounded.

For two days Khusainov was in a state of complete delirium. His ravings took on a unique form. Lying totally unconscious, he would recite or sing songs in the Tatar language.

The explanation for this is as follows: The left and right temporal lobes of the human brain are the seats of sound memory, the left being connected primarily with speech and the right with music, songs and similar sounds. Since in the case of Khusainov it was the right lobe that constituted the irritated section of the brain during the first days after the wound had been inflicted—part had been pulped and the rest, although uninjured by the mine splinter was swollen and slightly inflamed—this led to a unique reproduction of the sound images that had been impressed in the temporal region and to automatic, unconscious reproduction of these images in the patient's delirium.

At the end of the third day after he had been wounded, Khusainov came to himself and began to speak with those around him.

## ***On Road To Recovery***

After spending 12 days in the field hospital, the wounded man was brought to our clinic in a satisfactory state. He is still there today, well on the road to recovery. If we are successful in avoiding the development of an abscess at the injured spot or of inflammation of the cerebral membranes—and this is not difficult in view of modern methods of treatment—then as time passes and the hole formed by the mine splinter in the skull bones becomes covered by soft tissues, the strength of the wounded man will return and will finally be restored to normal life, partially retaining his capacity to work.

Another example is the case of Senior Lieutenant Perfilyev, who was wounded in the head during a raid on the staff headquarters of a German regiment of rapid-fire gunners. A bullet from an automatic firearm entered his head at the nape of his neck, passed straight through the entire left cerebral hemisphere and lodged in the left frontal region of the brain.

The wounded man was brought shortly afterwards to our clinic. With the aid of X-rays, we succeeded in establishing the exact location of the bullet. The patient suffered from splitting headaches and showed symptoms of suppuration of the brain, evidently due to the fact that some hair, and perhaps a piece of his hat also, had been carried into the brain by the bullet.

## ***Resort To Trepanning***

To remove the bullet by way of the opening it had made when entering the skull would have been practically impossible unless a considerable portion of the brain was cut away. In the case of such an operation the wounded man might have lost his power of speech, since the bullet had passed close to the speech centres in the left cerebral hemisphere.

We resorted to trepanning. By making a small opening in the left frontal bone of the skull, we succeeded in removing the bullet, together with all foreign matter it had carried along with it.

Today, Lieutenant Perfilyev is making rapid progress on the road to complete recovery.

It is not always possible, of course, to resort to decisive surgical interference in the case of skull or brain wounds under the conditions afforded by field hospitals. That is why, after preliminary surgical treatments of the wound, during which any shattered bone or metal splinters lying near the surface are removed, every effort is made to transport the wounded man by plane or, failing that, by well-equipped ambulances as quickly as possible to special neuro-surgical institutions in the rear.

# **Transplanted Nerves Save Use Of Limbs**

NERVES taken from corpses have been successfully transplanted to living persons by Professor A. S. Vishnevskiy, head of the surgical depart-

ment of the Neurological Clinic ( Leningrad ). Employed at this clinic for the first time in history, this innovation in surgery has been resorted to on many occasions with excellent results.

One Red Army commander brought to the clinic, for example, had been severely wounded in the arm by a mine splinter, which had torn out both parts of the muscle and a section of a main motor nerve. As the severed ends of the nerve were 1'5 cm. apart, they could not be sewn together. Ordinarily the young man would lose the use of his arm.

The operation was performed by Professor Vishnevsky, who used a piece of a nerve taken from a person who had been killed in an accident. The transplanted nerve successfully took root and after a time the man was able to move his arm as if nothing had happened. Today the professor's patient is once more on active service at the front.

The problem of restoring the functions to a limb when the motor nerves have been injured occupied the attention of surgeons the world over. In some countries attempts were made to transplant to man nerves removed from animals, and rabbit is used for this purpose. None of these methods, however, were found to give the desired results.

An added advantage claimed for Professor Vishnevsky's method is the fact that nerves taken from corpses, when properly treated after removal, can be preserved for a long time. This makes it possible for a surgeon to have a complete "set" of different nerves available for use whenever necessity arises.

# New Advances In Soviet Medicine

## Men Of Science Are Not Deterred By Trying War Conditions

( Written in March 1942 )

WORKING under the trying conditions of a beleaguered city, medical men of Leningrad have made a number of contributions that are a direct aid in the treatment of the wounded and the fight against infection.

Much attention is devoted by the Leningrad Post-Graduate Institute for Physicians to the problem of combating gaseous gangrene, Professor S. A. Raineberg has developed a method for the X ray diagnosis of gaseous infection in its early stages. A new preparation for treating such infections has been worked out by Assistant Professor I. V. Kolodner.

The microbiology department is also conducting investigations in this field. One of its staff has proposed the introduction of bacteria that give off wxygenito wounds to accelerate healing.

Surgeons of this institute have developed a new method of amputating injured parts of extremities which makes subsequent stitching of the wound unnecessary. This prevents infection and makes it easier to perform plastic operations in the future.

The action of anaerobic phages in the treatment of purulent wounds is being studied by the Second Medical Institute. The institute supplies surgical clinics with various bacteriophages as well as especially purified preparations of these phages suitable for intravenous injection in cases of sepsis.

Considerable research on wounds, burns, infections and poison gases is under way at the Leningrad branch of the All-Union Institute of Experimental Medicine. The bio-chemistry and microbiology departments have trained a group of specialists in the diagnosis of anaerobic infections. A special laboratory for the detection of combat chemical agents has also been set up.

# Research On Longevity Now Helps War Wounded Regain Health

## Discovery Of Famous Scientist Academician Bogomolets Working To Prolong Span Of Human Life Is Put To Successful Use In Military Hospitals

(From UFA, Bashkirian ASSR, February 1942)

Results of investigations in the domain of longevity conducted over a period of many years by Academician A. A. Bogomolets and his associates are now being successfully applied in the treatment of wounded Red Army men, your correspondent learned in an interview with the savant, renowned for his fight to prolong the span of human life.

"Our contribution," Academician Bogomolets explained, "is the antireticular cyototxis serum we had developed to combat premature aging of the human organism."



The scientist who has devoted four decades of his life to research on longevity then proceeded to outline in brief his theory on the subject. According to the Academician, the resistance of the human body to infection depends on the reactivity of the physiological system of the connective tissue. It is in this system that sclerotic changes leading to premature aging of the organism first set in. That is why the fight for a normal life span of the human organism, which Bogomolets defines as 150 years, must begin with a fight for healthy connective tissue.

In order to maintain the connective tissue in a healthy state, however, one must be able to control its reactivity, Bogomolets points out. Tackling the problem from this angle, the scientists developed a special antireticular cytotoxic serum. In large doses this serum was found to have an inhibiting effect in small doses ( 0.1–0.2 cu.cm. ), on the other hand, it had a definite stimulating effect.

### *Highly Gratifying Results*

“ In the first half of last year, ” Academician Bogomolets related, “ we launched a series of experiments to determine the influence of the serum on an aging organism. The data obtained showed that the serum changes the physicochemical properties of the cell protoplasm, making them resemble those of the protoplasm in the cells of a young organism. Highly gratifying results were obtained in the clinical treatment of cases of premature sclerosis and the early stages of high blood pressure.

“ Our investigations also showed that the serum accelerates the knitting of fractures and the healing of wounds, and reduces the number of cases of relapses in cancer after operation. It was also found that small doses of the serum help check the spread of infection in cases of acute rheumatism of the joints.”

Academician Bogomolets and his institute, which was situated in Kiev, were evacuated into the interior of the country in good time where they resumed their researches. The academician is also guiding the activities of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukraine which he heads.

“ We are at present continuing our experiments with our serum, but from an entirely different angle,” the noted scientist pointed out. “Today the serum is being employed in army hospitals, where it has been found to produce a very salutary effect in the treatment of difficult knitting fractures caused by bullets or shell splinters, and of slow healing wounds and ulcers. It is also being used to combat wounds and other infection.”

# **Soviet Music And War**

**Reviews of Dmitri Shostakovich's 7th Symphony. Created in the midst of war in Leningrad reflects the struggle and coming triumph of progress and culture over the dark forces of reaction**

## CHAPTER EIGHT

# **Shostakovich's 7th Symphony Goes To U. S. And Britain**

SEVERAL copies of the score of Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony photographed on a cinema film are being sent to the United States and Britain by the All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries.

Requests for the work, which was performed for the first time on March 5, 1941, in the city of Kuibyshev on the Volga, have been received by the society from both countries, where musical circles have been showing a keen interest in the composition ever since it was announced that Shostakovich had begun working on it.

Wires were received from four leading American conductors—Leopold Stokowski, Serge Koussevitski of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Eugene Ormandy of the Philadelphia Symphony, and Rodzinski of the Cleveland Symphony asking that copies of the score be rushed them by plane. The maestros have announced that they intend to begin rehearsals of the work with their orchestras at the same time and give premiere performances on the same day in four cities, an undertaking without precedent in the musical life of the United States.

A number of musical societies in England have also asked the cultural relations society, through the Soviet Embassy in London, for copies of the score.

## **Music That Mirrors Humanity's Struggle And Coming Triumph**

**Shostakovich's on 7th Symphony**

*By Loen Bernard*

I SAT alone in the crowded concert hall, the majestic columns of which caught the light of the crystal chandeliers suspended from the

white ceiling in shining clusters. It was a Monday evening in Moscow, dark and windy, one of the first evenings of a Russian spring.

My Russian friends had been unable to accompany me. They are very busy these days. But does one really need society in order to enjoy music?

Now the assembly is hushed. The buzz of conversation and the rustling of programs cease, even the desultory coughing is restrained. The huge orchestra is tensed, and all eyes are on the conductor's stand in anticipation of that imperious gesture which will summon forth the opening bars of Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony.

The Seventh Symphony, I had been told, is intrinsically Russian from the first note to the last; it is permeated with the Russian, the Soviet national spirit and content. It was inspired by the first austere days of the Great Patriotic war. It was written in Leningrad to the accompaniment of artillery bombardment, the explosion of demolition bombs dropped by the Luftwaffe on the northern capital, the majestic city of Peter and of Lenin.

### *Vozdushnaya Trevoga*

The score, I have been told, bears here and there the Russian letter, V and T, which stand for "Vozdushnaya trevoga" meaning air-raid alarm. They were jotted down by the composer who, when the strident voice of the air-raid sirens broke rudely into the midst of the melody, laid aside his work and hurried to take up his post on the roof of his house along with the other firewatchers.

The symphony was written in the days when the Red Army withdrew grimly to the east, fighting furiously as it went, and the enemy wallowing in rivers of his own blood, was marching toward Moscow the very heart of Russia. True, the concluding bars were written at the end of December, after the German fascist troops had been routed at Moscow and when the Russian units were victoriously advancing. No doubt these events determined the tone of work as a whole, the solemn triumph of its finale.

I had heard all this before. I took my seat in the Column Hall of the House of Trade Unions, and was prepared to listen to a symphony that was Soviet national music. But each one of us responds to the magic of music in his own way. And can I be blamed if on the wings of the symphony my thoughts and emotions were involuntarily borne away to my beloved France.

### *Complacent France*

The calm, placid, sunny introduction brought back to me the summer of 1939. I saw my France basking in the soporific sun of self-deception, in the haze of complacency induced by the Pseudoconciliatory policy of her

leaders. It was all nonsense. There would be no war. They would never dare. Everything would turn out for the best.

But now, above the soothing whispers of the Laval and the demoralizing crooning of the de Brignons, comes a faint tap-tapping of drums from the other side of the Rhine. It is followed by a crude melody played on the tinwhistle, stirring a feeling of vague uneasiness, reviving the memory of something that seem to have been forgotten but which actually the French will never forget—the Prussian boot.

The vulgar, stupid tune is repeated over and over again, growing in volume, until it becomes the march of relentless invading hordes. Horror grips you, you seem to see the Prussian peak helmets, the ominous pot helmets of Hitler's bands.

We have been deceived ! We have been betrayed ! But it is too late, the bridges over the Maas have already been surrendered intact to the enemy !

The drums beat wildly. The hall rocks with the volume of sound. On they come, with the mad howl of infuriated jackals. Paris is in flames, its lovely buildings crumbling in ruins. The gargoyles on the Norte Dame seem about to turn away in disgust at the shameful sight of German swastika hoisted on the Arc de Triomphe.

Louder and louder, drowning out the anguished groans of the refugees machine-gunned from the air while crossing the Loire, swells the roar of the Hitler monster. France still wants to resist. All is not yet lost. Her colonial empire is still untouched. Britain and her friends across the ocean promise their help. But the capitulators lay down their arms—and France lies prostrate in the dust of the Compiègne disgrace.

The second and third movement of the symphony reminded me of the clenched teeth and the stunned look in the eyes of the betrayed and deluded Frenchmen, of the lethargy and apathy that followed the rude awakening. Misfortune had suddenly swooped down on the French people; two million Jeans, Pierres and Pauls were led away into the slavery of German prison camps. The rest were herded behind the prison fence of the demarcation line, with the hangman Stulpnagel on one side, and on the other, the comedians from the Vichy operetta entitled "National Revolution, in which there is nothing national and nothing revolutionary."

### *Free France Lives On*

But the spirit of the Gauls, embodied in the traditions of Valmy, the Marne and Soissons, lives on. The French people have awakened from their stupor. They are beginning to resist. Let the volleys of the German punitive detachments thunder—the blood of hostages cements the movements of the Free French. The invaders will be kicked out of France. Their Vichy mait-

res d'hotel who presented their country to Hitler on a platter will get their just deserts.

Over the hall resound the solemn triumphant notes of the finale Victory ! It is coming ! It is being won by the heroic Red Army of the great Soviet people ! It is being won by the worldwide anti-Hitlerite coalition of nations. And, with it, France too will be able to breathe freely, her honor, liberty and independence restored.

I leave the hall shaken to the depths of my being, with an aching yet rejoicing heart. In the lobby I am instructed to go down to the bomb shelter. Half an hour ago an air-raid alert was sounded: some German planes had been sighted over the city. I remembered having noticed a man—obviously a member of the management—come out onto the platform while the finale was being played and try to say something to the conductor. But the latter had refused to interrupt the music and had calmly gone on. The audience too had been imperturbable, although it knew very well what the urgent whispering of the member of the management had meant.

The German fascist raiders did not succeed in breaking off the finale of the great piece of music. Nor will Hitler succeed in averting the victorious finale when Light and Liberty will triumph over darkness and slavery.

## Shostakovich's 7th. Symphony Scores Merited Triumph

**'Symphony of today is assertion of power of progress and culture—Great composition—It reflects grandeur of patriotic war and ultimate victory**

*By A. Ogolevets*

THE PREMIERE performance of Dmitri Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony took place in Kuibyshev on March 5.

The very fact that this symphony was written is an event in itself. It was born of the war. Its author is an artist of his day, keenly alive to events, receptive to the ideas and interests of his country.

Shostakovich began to compose his Seventh Symphony in beleaguered Leningrad, to whose gallant defenders it is dedicated.

"I wrote my Seventh Symphony in a short time," says the composer. "I began to work on it at the end of July 1941, and finished it in December. Never have I worked with such absorption and inspiration as this symphony."

Speaking of the music he says: "I did not propose to give a naturalistic depiction of war, to reproduce the zooming of airplanes, the roar of tanks and the thunder of guns. I have not written so-called battle music..."

No, indeed this is not battle music. It is the embodiment in sound of the idea of the victory of light over darkness, justice over barbarism, reason over bigotry and ignorance. The sensitive soul or the musician perceived the horror of the abyss into which Hitler is seeking to hurl happiness and liberty and the achievements of world culture.

### *Symphony Of Today*

Many a great work of art has been produced with the artist looking at his inspiration in retrospect, with time helping him perceive the given event in its entirety. What is most remarkable about Shostakovich's symphony is that it was written in the very midst of the events that inspired it. It is a symphony of today.

In the first movement the monster of war swoops down upon the peaceful life of the composer's countrymen whom he loves and to whom he belongs. There is a calm serenity about the first theme and gentle lyricism about the second, in which the composer speaks of the daily life of his heroes, their little joys and sorrows. Suddenly, against the background of the orchestral pianissimo, comes the warning tattoo of the small drum and stealthily, warily like a prowling beast enters the muffled war theme, harsh and blatant, but relentless, brutal, stupid. The theme passes through a number of variations in a rising crescendo. Louder and louder swells the sound as the cruel melody advances, sweeping everything from its path, engulfing the listener and filling him with horror. The amazing symphonic action the composer achieves in this movement convinces one that music is indeed the art of images the pen is powerless to depict.

The music of the first movement carries the listener with it. He hears the heavy, savage tread of the relentless enemy, he hears the groans and cries of anguished victims. He mourns the dead to the awesome notes of the Requiem which is the kernel of the first movement. The sorrowful bassoon solo—lament for the fallen—comes at the end of this movement followed by a lyrical conclusion, which relaxes the tension.

The second and third movements of the symphony are especially interesting.

## *Memory Of Happy Days*

"The second movement," the composer says, "is a scherzo. It is a rather elaborate lyrical episode. It brings back the memory of pleasant experiences and happy days, and there is a faint touch of wistful sadness over it all. The third movement is a long andante—a hymn to life and nature."

The artist, as we see, did not take the line of least resistance; he did not succumb to the temptation of writing a piece of battle music with its kaleidoscopic movement of episodes. In the third movement of his symphony he treats of things human and humane, that for which the struggle in the first movement was fought and for the sake of which we are striving for the victory heralded in the fourth.

The second movement appeases the listener, but while appeasing, it does not reconcile us with the nightmare of the first movement. The horror and indignation evoked by the first movement remains with us to the end. Enunciation of life, reflections on the past, inexhaustible optimism, grief for what has gone by and faith in a brighter future—these, we believe, are the moods portrayed in the third movement. Both movements echo the dramatic pattern of the first movement and lead to the triumph of truth, liberty and happiness, the contours of which are perceived in the victory heralded by the fourth movement. Sorrow, side by side with optimism, are the qualities underlying the emotions permeating both these movements.

In the fourth movement the composer has employed the rarely used method of evoking masses of tone from the depths of the orchestra and leading up in harmonious volume to majestic triumph. The second theme of this movement is the optimistic apotheosis of the entire symphony.

## *Classical Work*

The maturity of this work, which makes it possible to speak with full justification of Soviet classical music, the profound mastery of medium, the clarity of form, the freshness and originality, the exaltation and youthful ardor of the music—hall contributed to the success of the performance. Clarity and simplicity to the point of sublimity are the distinguishing qualities of the symphonic language. The complex structure of the symphony which takes an hour and twenty minutes to play, is masterfully welded into one monumental whole, proportional in every detail.

Incidentally, Shostakovich's Seventh Symphony is by no means a chance phenomenon in music. Shostakovich has imbibed the finest traditions of world musical culture, including Russian music. He was brought up on the music of Rimsky-Korsakov and Chaikovsky, a pupil of their pupils.



The birth of the Seventh Symphony is at the same time evidence of the fact that in spite of the exigencies of war, Soviet composers are given every opportunity to pursue their creative activity.

The Seventh Symphony confirms our belief in the power of progress and culture. With the composer we believe in the great forces of progressive mankind, which will defeat fascism. The Muses whom the guns of evil and darkness strove to silence have spoken. "We are fighting for the triumph of reason over obscurantism," says the composer, "There is no task more ennobling than that which inspires us to fight the dark forces of Hitlerism."

The audience greeted the performance of the Symphony with a stormy ovation. It is a long time since we have attended such a veritable festival of music. Samuel Samosud, People's Artist of the USSR, gave an inspired interpretation of the composer's ideas. The symphony orchestra of the Bolshoi Theater under his able baton fully deserved to share the success of the symphony with its author.

# **Soviet Theatre And Cinema In War**

**New Theatrical and Cinema productions reflecting the struggling of labouring, advanced and cultured mankind against the hordes and terror of Hitlerism.**

## CHAPTER NINE

# 'V' For Victory Movement Is Subject Of Play Staged By Moscow Theater

By **HENRY ROVICH**

(Written, March 1942.)

V. V. V. This letter, symbol of the undying spirit of the vanquished nations of Europe, has come to be a spectre for the Nazis, striking terror into the conquerors and instilling hope and courage in the conquered. V. V. V. This letter appears continuously on the walls of houses and plants, on fences and in workshops in the Nazi-occupied countries, like the "mene tekell fares" of old.

V. V. V. — "V" for victory. It is this movement that is the subject of a new play which had its premiere recently at the **LENISOVIET THEATER** in Moscow. Written by Y. Alexandrov. It is entitled "VICTORY."

### *Free France Fights On*

The author obviously did not aim to make any sweeping generalisations. He has taken only a "minor" episode, depicted against the background of a small town in northwestern France, to show that France, free France, is living and fighting on.

"France no longer exists!" the German *feldwebel* never tires of assuring his men. "Everything in France belongs to us!" He encourages them to loot, kill and rape to their heart's content in the small French town in which they are quartered. The German soldiers torment and persecute the French people, fully confident that they have succeeded in wiping France off the face of the earth.

But in every small town and village in the occupied countries there are true patriots. What French town today does not have its Uncle Jacques, the saloon keeper, who has all the makings of a fighter and a popular avenger; or workers like Jean Pierre Duval and Marcel Bouviet, the foremen, who risk their lives in an unequal struggle against the cruel and hated enemy for the triumph of freedom.

The play opens with the arrival of a new engineer named Dulac at a munitions plant. Despite the fact that he is French, he inspires confidence in Reichskommissar Konrad Hessler, who is satisfied by his credentials.

The workers are immediately put on their guard against the new engineer by his attempts to increase production. He accuses the workers of being lazy and loafing on the job, and demands the dismissal of Pierre Bouvier, "Big Pierre," for having okayed a consignment of worthless caps for aerial bombs. Although the caps bear the stamp of Marcel Bouviet, foreman inspector and leader of the plant's young patriots, Pierre takes the blame on himself and dies at the hands of the Gestapo.

Dulac, who has been brought up in the traditions of the old intelligentsia and who places his professional honour above everything else, is thus responsible for the death of his compatriot, who does what he can to prevent the bombs that the Nazis are forcing him to manufacture from destroying peaceful Russian towns and killing Russian soldiers. For Pierre realizes that his country's liberation from the Nazi yoke depends on Hitler's defeat in the East.

Tortured by remorse and branded by the contempt of his countrymen and fellow-workers, engineer Dulac begins to see the light.

### *Struggle Begins*

And the inexorable letter, "V", continues to appear on the walls of the shops and on the machines. In spite of the in potent rage of the Gestapo, in spite of its methods of terror, the workers continue to make bombs that do not explode. Inspired by the rumours coming from the East, they smile contemptuously when they read in their corrupt newspapers about new German "victories".

They carry on the fight day in and day out. When a strike finally breaks out at the plant, it is engineer Dulac who leads the workers.

The curtain falls with the strike scene. But the play is not ended. History will bring the fruits of the heroic struggle that is being waged by the people in the occupied countries, one small episode of which is told in "Victory". And history will pay tribute to the fearless, stout-hearted patriots who are now fighting against tremendous odds and prefer to die on their feet rather than live on their knees.

## **Sverdlovsk's Theatrical Pulse Beats At War- time Pace**

*By N. MILITSYNA*

(Written February 1942)

THE FIRST thing an inveterate theatregoer notices on visiting a new town is the billboards. What struck me on arrival in Sverdlovsk was

the large number of uncommon titles of operas, plays and operettas announced. Sverdlovsk's theatre life promised to be anything but dull.

Who, for instance, would have expected to meet Ceasar Cui's charming one act opera "Mademoiselle Fifi," based on the story of Guy de Maupassant, in the Urals? Or "Fra Diavolo" by Robert, or Chaikovsky's "Opvichnik" which has not been staged by any opera house elsewhere for more than two decades? Another surprise Sverdlovsk had for me was "The Gioconda Smile," a new operetta by the Soviet composer Korchmaryov—entirely unknown to Moscow. Even the Theater of the Young Spectator offered a novelty in the shape of "Kostya, the partisan," obviously one of new war plays.

But before I could get to see any one of these alluring performances I had to appeal to the management for a pass, since every show is sold out here two weeks in advance. However, once the ticket hurdle had been taken I settled down to enjoy myself.

### *Lives Up To Reputation*

The first discovery I made was that the Lunacharsky Theater of Opera and Ballet quite lives up to its reputation as one of the finest opera houses in the country. It has an excellent orchestra, a well-trained chorus, and solists of more than ordinary vocal and dramatic ability. What's more, I found that the imagination displayed in the choice of repertory was part of the policy of this theater which chooses its opera, and ballets with an eye to the all-round development of the musical and choreographic talents of the company, apart, of course, from the principal aim of giving the public the best grand opera has to offer. That is why Verdi, Gounod, Robert and other western European composers figure side by side with Glinka, Dargomyzhsky, Borodin, Rimsky-Korsakov, Chaikovsky and modern Soviet composers.

Among the latter is V. Trambitsky, a local composer, who has written two operas for the theater—"To Life," already produced, and "TEMPEST," now in rehearsal. The ballets "Sulamith" by Boris Asafyev and "Mountain Tale" by A. Friedlander were also written specially for the theater.

### *Holds Great Promise*

I had the good fortune to attend a rehearsal of "Suvorov," a new opera by S. Vasilenko which the theater is producing in honour of the 24th Anniversary of the Red Army. Dedicated to the great Russian soldier and the glory he won for Russian arms, this opera is a signal event in Soviet music and warrants a review in itself. I noted the extensive use of folk melodies, particularly old war songs. The taking of Devil's Bridge during the crossing of the Alps by Suvorov's troops promised to be the most stirring and effective scene in the opera.

Light operas written and produced here in recent years have shown that this genre can sometimes touch upon serious social problems without forfeiting its humor or its separate musical ethereality. "GREAT HEART," now being produced by the Sverdlovsk Theater of Musical Comedy, belongs to this category. It is the story of generous, big hearted Soviet people who give a home and parental love to little orphaned children, a theme which is directly echoed by real life today.

This company has produced two new Soviet and three foreign comic operas this season. Offenbach's "PERICOLA" will have its premiere in a few days and "CRYSTAL CUP" (libretto by Lev Kassil, music by Tikhon Khrennikov) will be offered later in the season.

The rugged beauty of the Ural scenery is evidently conducive to creative work, for a goodly number of gifted writers and musicians have come to the fore in this part of country. And in this respect the local theaters must be given credit for tapping these "local resources." The efforts of the Theater of the Young Spectator in this field have been amply rewarded. "Kostya the Partisan," the play I mentioned before, written by K. Filipova, a Sverdlovsk authoress, at the theatre's request and in close collaboration with the regisseur and the troupe, bears this out.

It is the story of young Kostya and his pals who help the adult partisans to fight the German invaders. Both the authoress and the theatre have managed to give convincing portraits of Kostya and his brave young friends. They are real children, but children, who have matured in the fire of war, which has intensified their hatred for the enemy and their selfless devotion to their country.

Original as the Sverdlovsk repertory is in all other respects, it has one thing in common with theatres all over the Soviet Union, namely, the popularity of Shakespearean plays.

Besides "King Lear," which is running in the local Drama Theatre, "The Taming of the Shrew" by the visiting Central Theatre of the Red Army is being performed with as much success as it had in Moscow. Sverdlovsk theatregoers are almost as enthusiastic about another English classic performed by the Red Army Theatre, namely, Oliver Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer." Besides its Moscow productions the theatre is working on a number of new plays. "Wartime Pace" is the company's motto.

## **RED ARMY DAY**

The theatre is now putting the finishing touches to its production of the "FATHERLAND," to be presented on the occasion of the Red Army anniversary. It is the story of the joint struggle of partisans and regular Red Army units against the fascists. A new production of Schiller's "Love and Intrigue" is also in the offing.

Besides its regular performances given in the Sverdlovsk Red Army Club, the company of the Red Army Theatre frequently gives concerts for the troops of the Urals military area. A brigade of its actors has been performing for the troops on the Northwestern Front since the war broke out. A second brigade is leaving for the front shortly.

Sverdlovsk theatrogoers are impatiently awaiting the premiere of A. Perventsev's "WINGED TRIBE," to be produced by the Sverdlovsk Theatre of Drama. This story of the heroic Soviet flyers and airplane designers during the present war has been running in the Central Red Army Theatre for half a year now and the opportunity of compaign the two production is something to look forward to. Judging by the presentation of "FIELD MARSHAL KUTUZOV" I saw in the Drama Theatre I should say that it is a dangerous competitor.

## **Rout Of The German Troops At Moscow**

**Documentary record of epoch-making struggle  
that shattered Hitler's Armored Fist**

( Written February 1942 )

"THE ROUT of the German Troops at Moscow is the title of a new full-length film that is now being screened in the Soviet Union. It is a documentary record of the battle for Moscow, that epoch-making struggle which marked the turning point in the great patriotic war of the Soviet people against the German fascist invaders.

It is a gray and gloomy October day. Hitler, who envisioned himself riding into the ancient Russian capital on a white steed, has hurled 80 of his picked divisions against Moscow. The enemy iron ring is pressing tighter and tighter around the heart of the Soviet land.

But Moscow does not falter. It stands firm as a rock against the advancing waves of the Nazi invasion.

### ***Daily Round of Beleaguered City***

The camera takes the spectator around the city. He is given a glimpse of factories and mills, and then whisked up over the city roofs, which seem calm and mysterious in the dim light of early morning, part of the majestic serenity of the city. The Kremlin stars sparkle and glitter as they catch the first rays of the rising sun.

Queer awkward monsters resembling giant sealions flounder through the city's streets. They are barrage balloons, which are being taken away by Red Army men after their night's vigil in the skies.

The tramp-tramp of marching feet! echoes through the stillness of dawn as a detachment of armed workers returns from night training somewhere outside the city. They have been learning to throw grenades, to set tanks on fire and use a bayonet. Now they are hurrying to work to manufacture mine throwers, hand grenades and shells for the front, which has moved up to the gates of their city.

Shot by shot, the daily round of beleaguered Moscow is unfolded on the screen. Trucks and cars are seen speeding to the outskirts from all parts of Moscow. Youngsters and oldsters, housewives and actors, teachers and students, schoolchildren and scientists—tens and hundreds of thousands of them—are hurrying to build a ring of impregnable trenches, anti-tank pits and blindages around the capital.

Outlying streets and alleys leading toward the centre are blocked by barricades. Squares bristle with steel.

### ***Stalin Addresses Troops On Red Square***

"...Nov. 7, 1941. This was the day on which Hitler, who believed himself to be the ruler of the world, had planned to parade his troops on Red Square in Moscow. No doubt the "Fuehrer" lost plenty of sleep rehearsing before the mirror the poses and gestures with which he would appear before his bundit hordes. But Hitler's field glasses misled him, and Nov. 7 found him still outside the city's walls."

There was, however, a military parade on Moscow's Red Square on that day. Columns of Red army men marched past the Lenin Mausoleum in immaculate formation, vowing deathless loyalty to their country.

J. V. Stalin, People's Commissar of Defence, reviewed them from the tribune. In calm confident tones he addressed the Red Army, the Soviet people and the population of the temporarily occupied territory.

"...Comrades, men of the Red Army and Red Navy, commanders and political instructors, men and women guerillas," he said, "the whole world is looking toward you as a force capable of destroying the plundering hordes of German robbers. The enslaved peoples of Europe who have fallen beneath the yoke of the German robbers look toward you as their liberators. A great liberating mission has fallen to your lot. Be worthy of this mission! The war you are fighting is a war of liberation, a just war..."

It was one month later, on Dec. 6, the Red Army units broke through the enemy defences on the western section of the front and launched counter-offensive. This counter-offensive quickly spread to other sectors of the front.

Fresh reserves move westward in an endless stream. Covered by well-aimed artillery fire, infantrymen go into the attack. The Red Army men, looking like some northern Bedouins in their white camouflage suits, press



forward plowing through the deep snow or skiing swiftly over its surface, and drive the Germans out of the trenches, dogouts and warm cottages in which they have quartered themselves.

### ***Invaders Turn Tail Before Flood of Steel***

The mighty flood of steel swoops down on the enemy. Powerful tanks hurtle along, raising clouds of dust-like snow. Airplanes drop their deadly cargoes on retreating German units. Dashing cavalry attacks sow confusion in the ranks of the enemy.

The "invincible" Hitlerites flee, leaving behind them ammunition, equipment and supplies. The path of their retreat is strewn with thousands of abandoned trucks, tanks and motorcycles.

Not so long ago they had marched in the opposite direction, arrogant, self-assured. Now they are lying dead on the highways and roads, in the fields and woods besides bridges, in village lanes, on city squares and in trenches.

They all look so much alike ! Unwashed, unkempt, bloated, swathed in women's mufflers and shawls and with rags wound around their feet. They lie frozen, in stiff unnatural poses—yesterday's heroes of orgies of plunder and violence, the inglorious descendants of the inglorious robber barons of old, whose bones also rotted on Russian soil.

### ***Road Of Death Runs Westward***

The road runs westward. The road of death, the same road by which other "world conquerors" fled before the Russian troops 130 years ago.

Here the spectator is shown a reminder of those days. It is a granite obelisk topped by an eagle, a monument to the glory of Russian arms. The battle of Borodino was fought here, the battle which decided the fate of Napoleon's ill-starred attempt to conquer the Russian people.

Fleeing before the Red Army, the Germans in their impotent rage destroy everything in their path, burning, blowing up, destroying, pillaging.

The camera gives us horrifying glimpses of these heinous crimes. There are thriving towns reduced to grave-yards, ruins and ashes; the charred bodies of captured Red Army men burned alive; the mutilated body of a young woman whom the Nazis raped and tortured to death; the frozen corpse of a tiny baby lying in the snow, naked but for a flimsy little shirt, one little hand outstretched in mute appeal toward the bodies of its murdered parents.

Never will we forgive and forget !

The enemy ring has long since been broken through in many places. Red Army units enter the inhabited points they have recaptured,

warmly welcomed by the population, which has returned from the woods and forests. Kalinin, Klin, Volokolamsk, Mikhailov, Istra and finally Mozhaisk, the last stronghold of the fascist offensive on Moscow.

Children run out happily to meet Red Army men. An aged woman collective farmer stops a cavalryman to embrace and kiss him. As he canters off, she makes the sign of the cross, as though giving him her blessing for new exploits.

Fifteen gallant cameramen helped to make this film. Among them were R. Karmen, who filmed the battlefields of Spain and China, B. Makaseyev, I. Belyakov and V. Statland, all of whom have been decorated with Orders.

They saw the beginning of the offensive operations led by fearless General Rokossovsky. They witnessed the first decisive victories by General Belov's gallant cavalymen.

Taking pictures from tanks and airplanes marching with the advancing infantry, or setting up their camera at artillery fire stations, these 15 cameramen recorded the stirring events of those days which marked the beginning of the route of fascist armoured hordes on Soviet soil.

# **Soviet Literature And Education In War-Time**

**New novels, poems, to inspire the Soviet people to destroy the Hitler scourge. Work begins afresh in Moscow University—a typical example of a vast pattern.**

## CHAPTER TEN

# Studies Resumed At Moscow University

**With Enemy Driven Away From Capitals  
Students Flock Back To Alma Mater**

*By Henry Rovich*

(Writtin January, 1942.)

STUDIES were resumed the other day in all eight departments of the Moscow State University. On the campus are those students who did not leave the capital last October, when the main student body and the teaching staff were evacuated into the interior of the country.

At the time of German invaders were drawing steadily closer to Moscow, many of the student of the university joined the People's Volunteer Force to help defend the capital; others built fortifications on the approaches to the city. Now that the enemy has been repulsed, studies have been resumed at the university. Senior student serving in rear combat battalions or in the People's Volunteer Force are given the opportunity to complete their studies and obtain their degrees.

The students have foregathered in one of the auxiliary buildings of the old university. The main building was destroyed by a Fascist bomb, which fell in the garden in front, smashed the fence and knocked down the statue of Lomonosov, the founder of the university. The air wave wrecked the building itself.

"So far," Professor B. P. Orlov, the Dean of the University, told me, "we are quite comfortable in our present quarters. I am convinced that we shall have no trouble in finding further accommodation should we need it before the repair work is completed.

The University's famous library with its two million volumes and the third richest collection of manuscripts and rare editions in the USSR suffered heavily from the bombing, I learned, eighty thousand books were destroyed. The bulk of the library, including the rarest and most valuable volumes had, however, been placed in safety in good time.

"Knowing the fondness of the Nazi vandals for wanton destruction, we took care to deposit the rarest and most valuable volumes in deep vaults,'

the dean said. "Part of the library was shipped to the interior. What is left in Moscow is being put in order and will shortly be at the disposal of the students."

According to the professor, there is no lack of teaching staff, in spite of the fact that a large number of professors and lecturers were evacuated with the university.

The curriculum has, of course, been changed since the war began. As the dean noted, it is the duty of the University to contribute to the country's war effort in every possible way. Junior students, for example, will be sent to special short-term courses in running tractors and combines so that they can help with spring sowing.

# Historical Novel About Bloody Times Of Jenghis Khan Has Contemporary Ring

*By L. Volynsky*

(Written May 1942)

WE ARE accustomed to think that a tremendous gulf yawns between ancient and modern history. Yet there are some books about ancient history that read exactly as though they dealt with the present. Just such a work is "Jenghis Khan," a novel by the Soviet writer V. Yan (V. Yanchevetsky) who has been awarded a Stalin Prize.

It is seven centuries ago that the Mongolian ruler Temuchin, otherwise known as Jenghis Khan—"messenger from heaven"—swept down like a plague on cultured mankind. The policy and philosophy of this cruel conqueror are briefly but eloquently summed up by one of the characters in the novel, the Mongol diplomat Mahmud Yalvach. Sent to Khorezm (then a mighty empire occupying the territory of present-day Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Iran) not so much for diplomatic negotiations as for underhand, diversive activity, Mahmud Yalvach tells the Khorezm court chronicler:

"Jenghis Khan has proclaimed that the tribes under his rule constitute the only heavenly-chosen people in the universe and that henceforth

they will be called Mongols' ( victors )...All the other peoples of earth shall become the slaves of the Mongols. Insubordinate tribes will be wiped off the plains of the earth by Jenghis Khan like so many harmful weeds, and the Mongols alone will remain."

### ***Mongol New Order***

Such was the "new order" that a brutal and bloodthirsty despot planned to setup on the ruins of the civilization of that time.

V. Yan's novel deals with the latter period Temuchin's life, from the beginning of his campaign against Khorezm in 1215 up to the punitive campaign against the insubordinate state of Tangut. It was in the course of the latter campaign, in the year 1227 that Jenghis Khan died at the age of 72.

The flourishing cities of Bokhara, Samarkand, Mery and Urgench the capital of the Khorezm state, were put to the fire and sword. The hordes of Jenghis Khan penetrated for westward and appeared in Azerbaijan, on the other side of the Caspian Sea. They swept across the Crimea, invaded the steppeland along the Don River and advanced toward the plains of Russia. Here the vanguard of the Mongolian forces was routed by Prince Mstislav the Bold, who had crossed the Dnieper to meet the invaders.

Jenghis Khan owed his success to the disunity of his adversaries, the profound internal and foreign policy contradictions that corroded the states in his path. This was particularly true of Khorezm.

".....Had all the people of Khorezm," writes the wise Dervish Haji Rahim, one of the characters in the novel "Jenghis Khan," "resolutely and unanimously raised the sword of wrath and, without sparing themselves, upon the foes of their country, the arrogant Mongols and their red-bearded sovereign would not have been able to held Khorezm for half a year and would have retired forever to their distant plains."

When one reads Yan's novel, the scenes and events of antiquity acquire the familiar contours of the grim and stormy days of bloodshed and violence in which we are living at present.

Jenghis Khan's unbridled thirst for bloodshed, his desire to crush other peoples under his iron heel and his philosophy of world-wide butchery are one of the sources of the hysterical, bombastic philosophy set forth in Hitler's "Mein Kampf" and the delirious ravings contained in Rosenberg's "Myth of the Twentieth Century."

The very same causes that favored Jenghis Khan's conquests were at the root of the successes achieved by the leaders of the German fascist clique in the first part of their campaign for world domination. "He who does not defend himself, perishes," is just as applicable to the French capitulators, let us say, as to the rulers of Khorezm.

In one respect the German fascist bandits have actually surpassed Jenghis Khan. This is in their terror, atrocities and massacres in the lands and regions that they have captured.

### *Analogy Incomplete*

But here the analogy between Hitler and Jenghis Khan ends. Although the Mongol conqueror has gone down in history as a grim and terrible figure, he is nevertheless recognized as a statesman with unusual military talent. The Hitlerites, on the other hand, are merely miserable parodies of those they are seeking to emulate. And it is not as the conquerors of countries and peoples that they will go down in history, but as sanguinary clowns wiped out by their own contemporaries and made the laughing stock of coming generations.

# Poet And War

BY KLARA BLUM

When Prague in ancient grandeur stands again.  
And shakes her free from the teeth of fascist hounds.  
When the vengeful clouds over Hradschin\* turn to rain,  
My song will then resound.

In trampled gardens, peaceful once between  
Their high sea walls, fat alien weeds have grown;  
But strong hands grind, the knife will soon be keen,  
My words sing in the stone.

When a million eyes in Bucuresti glance  
With sudden resolve on insolent guttural throats,  
When the doina\*\* bids Herr Hitler to the final dance,  
Hear then my finest notes.

In Scandinavia's pangs when freedom is reborn,  
And the Eagle-Spirit stirs in Polish men,  
When Vienna overflows with wrath and scorn,  
My rhymes will revel then.

When gazing-far-for-freedom strengthens eyes  
To pierce at last that tyrant's brazen mask  
And strike him prostrate, never again to rise,  
Most light will be my task.

Fierce now the face of freedom's motherland  
Despising the beast within the armoured shell,  
A coffin be it by her mighty hand,  
My verse a joyous knell !

When the people of Germany finally comprehend  
And saving their honor before it is too late,  
Reverse their guns, on the right side in the end,  
My best I will create.

And if I can be blamed, I'll take the blame;  
Of patient suffering I shall speak no more;  
Patience is shame, when men live down that shame,  
I'll sing my songs of war.

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\* Hradschin—a fortress of Prague.

\*\* Doina—Moldavian folk-song form.



## JAMBUL JABIR

Poet of Kazakhstan



### **When Stalin Calls**

Stalin our land 'gainst the foe leads in fight—  
Dear to us all is our motherland bright;  
Heroes their blood paid for her liberty,  
Founded on Friendship of Peoples is she—  
Shall I then calmly from battle refrain,  
Shall I not fight for my land, might and main,  
Shall I not mount my warhorse once again,  
Shall not my songs both in labour and war  
Tirelessly ring out my people to cheer ?  
Ho, my brave sons, come, saddle my steed—  
My song shall ring out where'er Stalin leads !  
Now our young country our joy has become,

Downtrodden peoples now sit in the sun !  
Thief like, the jackal of sinister blend  
Fell on our country with evil intent.  
Truth in the popular proverb rings clear :  
"Sensing their death, evil beasts quake with fear,  
Driven by instinct, they rush from their lairs."  
Sealed are the loop-holes; and biting our steel,  
Fascist foul jackals shall eat their last fill.  
Ho, my brave sons, come and saddle my steed—  
My song shall ring out where'er Stalin leads !  
Two worlds unequal have entered in fight :  
One-old, decrepit, one-young in its might.  
Foul Fascist reptiles, their venomous spawn  
Pitting their strength 'gainst my eagles of dawn.  
Songs of my people are not sung in vain :  
"Th' eagle shall triumph, the reptile be slain."  
Stalin's our eagle, and eaglets untold  
Soar in the heavens, triumphant and bold.  
Listen, my native steppes, listen to me—  
Lead out your horses for our Red Army.  
Let your lead flow in hot streams, Chimkent mine—  
Death dealing lead for the foul fascist swine !  
Balkhash, your copper in red torrent send,  
Shells high explosive the en'my to rend !  
Caspian fishermen, more and still more  
Fish from the deep haul to your native shore !  
Call on our fields and our steppes in your need,  
Motherland—yours are their grain, cotton, steeds !  
Stalin has called us in battle and toil:  
Drive off the foeman from our sacred soil.  
Rise, Kazakhstan beloved, rise in your might,  
Rise as one man, put the en'my to flight !

*Free translation from the Russian*

*By LOUIS ZELLIKOFF*

# To Soviet Women

(*Marguerita Aliger*)

Woman, sister,  
Sweetheart, wife  
and mother !

Early rise tomorrow with the dawn,  
To the front send off your husband, son or brother,  
Ponder in the gentle breeze of morn,  
Many are the duties now that face you,  
Duties to your menfolk and your land.  
Lose no time, but speeding, homeward haste you—  
Children wait for you on every hand,  
Bear in mind in this our hour of trial,  
Though our life with hardships sore be fraught,  
That our little children no denial  
Have of loving care and peace and warmth.  
Let them grow, not knowing grief nor sorrow,  
Let them sing and frolic hand in hand,  
Let their childish lips repeat and hallow:

“ Victory  
and  
Motherland. ”

And your men, from battle home returning  
Wreathed in glory, fame and honour won,  
Pride in you will take on learning  
That you your duty faithfully have done.

*Free translation from the Russian*

*By* LOUIS ZELLIKOFF

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